



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Interservice Group on Urban Development

## **Part 2**

# **The urban dimension in the other Community policies for the period 2007-2013**

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ANNEX: European financing 2007-2013 and themes

## **1. APPLICATION OF INTERNAL MARKET AND COMPETITION LAW TO URBAN ACTION**

### **1.1. Introduction**

The public authorities, including the cities, provide a certain number of services of general interest (SGI) and make investments relating in particular to urban operations.

These activities are subject to the regulatory framework of the internal market and competition. In this respect, the following specific issues should be examined: the application of the internal market and competition rules to the SGI, the framework applicable to the selection of enterprises entrusted with supplying an SGI or carrying out an infrastructure project and the application of State aid rules to the specific field of urban regeneration.

### **1.2. Services of general interest**

#### *1.2.1. Overview*

The distribution of the tasks and responsibilities between the European Union and the Member States is complex and sometimes gives rise to misunderstandings among consumers, users and operators at local level. The Treaty makes no mention of the way in which SGI work in the objectives of the Community and does not allocate any specific “positive” competences to the Community in this field.

The expression "services of general interest" is not to be found in the European Treaties. It derives from Community practice and covers both market and non-market services which the public authorities consider to be of general interest and subject to specific public service obligations.

Only the expression "services of general economic interest" (SGEI) appears in the Treaty.

At present, apart from a sectoral reference in the title relating to transport, these services are cited in two Treaty provisions:

- Article 16, which requires the Community and the Member States, each within their respective responsibilities to take care that their policies allow the SGEI to fulfil their missions. It sets forth a Treaty principle, but does not provide the Community with specific means of action.
- Article 86(2), which implicitly recognises the right of Member States to impose specific public service obligations on the economic operators. It establishes a fundamental principle which guarantees the supply and development of the SGEI in the internal market. Suppliers of SGI are subject to the rules contained in the Treaty and in particular to the rules on competition, in so far as the application of such rules does not obstruct the performance, in law or in fact, of the particular tasks assigned to them. The development of trade must not be affected to such an extent as would be contrary to the interests of the Community. Consequently, in the event of conflict, the accomplishment of a public service mission may in fact take

precedence over the application of the Community rules on the internal market and competition, subject to the conditions set out in Article 86(2). In this way, the Treaty protects the actual fulfilment of a general interest mission, but not necessarily the supplier as such.

It is essentially the role of the competent authorities at national, regional and local level to define, organise, finance and monitor the SGI. For its part, the European Union has competences in areas which also affect SGI directly or indirectly: the internal market, competition and State aid, freedom of movement, social policy, transport, the environment, health, consumer policy, trans-European networks, industry, economic and social cohesion, research, trade, development cooperation and taxation.

The SGI may be classified under three categories depending on the need for and intensity of Community action and the role of the Member States:

(1) the SGEI provided by the big network industries: since the 1980s, the European Union has gradually opened up the markets for the big network industries, such as telecommunications, postal services, electricity, gas and transport, in which SGEI may be supplied. At the same time, the European Union has adopted an overall regulatory framework for these services which specifies the public service obligations at European level and includes aspects such as universal service, the rights of consumers and users, and health and safety;

(2) the other SGEI, such as waste management, water supply and public broadcasting services, are not subject to specific regulations at Community level. As a general rule, the supply and organisation of these services are subject to the internal market, competition and State aid rules if they may affect trade between Member States. In addition, specific Community rules, such as the environmental legislation, may apply to certain aspects of the supply of these services. For instance, for waste disposal (landfill, for example), Community legislation on waste establishes the "principle of proximity", according to which waste must be disposed of as close as possible to where it has been produced;

(3) services of a non-economic nature and services which do not affect trade: the SGI of a non-economic nature and services which do not affect trade between Member States are not governed by specific Community rules and are not covered by the internal market, competition and State aid rules laid down in the Treaty either. On the other hand, they are subject to the Community rules applicable to activities of a non-economic nature and activities which do not affect intra-Community trade, such as the fundamental principle of non-discrimination.

In its [White Paper on services of general interest](#)<sup>1</sup> of May 2004, the Commission presents an overall approach and concrete initiatives to promote the development of high-quality SGI within the European Union, recalls the current rules and presents a series of actions to clarify and simplify the European framework applicable to SGI.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2004) 374.

The Commission is currently preparing a communication which takes stock of the implementation of its White Paper. This stock-taking, which is planned for 2007, will take account of the opinions expressed by the institutions and stakeholders concerned.

*1.2.2. Compensation for services of general economic interest and State aid*

In cases where market forces alone do not result in a satisfactory provision of services of general economic interest (SGEI), financial support from the State intended to cover some or all of the specific costs resulting from the public service obligations may prove necessary, so that the undertakings entrusted with SGEI can operate under conditions that enable them to fulfil their missions.

In the judgment of the case *Altmark Trans GmbH*<sup>2</sup> the Court of Justice of the European Communities held that public service compensation does not constitute State aid within the meaning of Article 87 EC Treaty provided that four criteria are met:

1. The recipient undertaking is actually required to discharge public service obligations, and those obligations must be clearly defined.
2. The parameters on the basis of which the compensation is calculated must be established in advance in an objective and transparent manner.
3. The compensation cannot exceed what is necessary to cover all or part of the costs incurred in the discharge of public service obligations, taking into account the relevant receipts and a reasonable profit.
4. Where the undertaking, which is to discharge public service obligations, is not chosen pursuant to a public procurement procedure which would allow for the selection of the tenderer capable of providing those services at the least cost to the community, the level of compensation must be determined by a comparison with an analysis of the costs which a typical well run and adequately equipped undertaking would incur in discharging these obligations, taking into account the relevant receipts and a reasonable profit for discharging the obligations.

Where these four criteria are met, public service compensation does not constitute State aid. However, if these criteria are not respected and if the general criteria for the applicability of Article 87(1) EC Treaty are met, public service compensation constitutes State aid. Such State aid may be declared compatible with the EC Treaty under Article 86(2) if it is necessary to the operation of the SGEI and does not affect the development of trade to such an extent as would be contrary to the interests of the Community.

The [Commission's Decision of 28 November 2005](#)<sup>3</sup> specifies the conditions under which compensation to companies for the provision of public services is compatible with State aid rules (a clearly defined public service mandate and no

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<sup>2</sup> Case C-280/00, *Altmark Trans GmbH and Regierungspräsidium Magdeburg v Nahverkehrsgesellschaft Altmark GmbH*, ECR 2003 p. I-07747.

<sup>3</sup> Commission Decision of 28 November 2005 on the application of Article 86(2) of the Treaty to State aid in the form of public service compensation granted to certain undertakings entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest, OJ L 312/67 of 29.11.2005.

over-compensation) and does not have to be notified to the Commission in advance. The Decision is applicable to compensation of less than EUR 30 million per year provided its beneficiaries have an annual turnover of less than EUR 100 million.

Compensation granted to social housing<sup>4</sup> for services of general economic interest also benefits from the Decision irrespective of the amounts involved: this will enable specific and targeted support for social housing, which is essential for urban regeneration, without the need for a separate notification to the Commission.

The [Commission's Framework for State aid in the form of public service compensation](#)<sup>5</sup> specifies the conditions under which compensation not covered by the above-mentioned Decision is compatible with State aid rules. Such compensation will have to be notified to the Commission due to the higher risk of distortion of competition. Compensation that exceeds the costs of the public service, or is used by companies on other markets open to competition, is not justified, and is incompatible with the Treaty's State aid rules.

Companies receiving compensation and operating on both public service and other markets must have separate accounts for their different activities, so that the absence of over-compensation can be checked.<sup>6</sup>

*Other relevant documents:*

[Communication on social Services of general interest](#), COM (2006)177.

[Green Paper on services of general interest](#), COM (2003)270.

Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/services\\_general\\_interest/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/services_general_interest/index_en.htm)

### **1.3. Public procurement and public-private partnership**

The public authorities may decide to assign the provision of SGI and the performance of infrastructure work, especially urban operations, to other entities. Public procurement in the water, energy, public works and supply, and services sectors is governed by two Directives adopted in 2004<sup>7</sup> which lay down rules for tender procedures.

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<sup>4</sup> Compensation for hospitals, and for air and sea transport to islands as well as airports and ports below specific thresholds defined in passenger volumes, are also exempted from prior notification.

<sup>5</sup> Community Framework (adopted on 13 July 2005) for State Aid in the form of public service compensation, OJ C 297/4 of 29.11.2005.

<sup>6</sup> Commission Directive 2005/81/EC of 28 November 2005 amending Directive 80/723/EEC on the transparency of financial relations between Member States and public undertakings as well as on financial transparency within certain undertakings, OJ L 312/47 of 29.11.2005.

<sup>7</sup> [Directive 2004/17/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors, OJ L 134/1 of 30.4.2004.

[Directive 2004/18/CE](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts, OJ L 134/114 of 30.4.2004.

Local authorities may assign the supply of services or the implementation of infrastructure projects to public or private enterprises or to partnerships between the public sector and the private sector. This last possibility, the public-private partnership (PPP), is generating growing interest as it allows the local authorities to benefit from private funds and to improve the effectiveness of the action through the expertise of private operators. The [Green Paper on public-private partnerships and Community law on public contracts and concessions](#),<sup>8</sup> adopted in 2004, defines the PPP as a form of cooperation between public authorities and the world of business which aims to ensure the funding, construction, renovation, management or maintenance of an infrastructure, especially in the transport, health or education sector, or the provision of a service especially at local level.

The challenge now is to provide a clear legal framework which is more homogeneous between the various Member States, as emphasised in the [Communication from the Commission on PPP](#) of 15 November 2005.<sup>9</sup> A lack of legal certainty in this field causes uncertainties for the operators of a nature to constitute a real barrier to the establishment or due success of PPPs, to the detriment of the financing of major infrastructures and the development of high-quality public services.

The Commission is currently preparing an interpretative communication on institutionalised PPPs and Community law on public procurement. This document should be available by the end of 2007.

The Commission services are also undertaking an in-depth analysis of the impact of a possible legislative initiative on concessions. The final decision on this subject will depend on the result of this impact assessment. If need be, such an initiative would be adopted in early 2008.

*Publications:*

Guide to the Community rules on public procurement of services:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/publicprocurement/docs/guidelines/services\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/docs/guidelines/services_en.pdf)

#### **1.4. Urban dimension and State aid**

Regeneration of deprived urban areas encompasses a wide spectrum of measures: for example, measures to promote entrepreneurship, employment, community development, rehabilitation of natural and built environment, preservation and development of historical and cultural heritage.

For some of these measures public spending will be necessary, some of which may constitute State aid in the meaning of Article 87(1) of the EC Treaty. Thus any public support aimed at urban regeneration and development must comply with the procedural and material EU State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

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[Commission interpretative communication](#) on the Community law applicable to contract awards not or not fully subject to the provisions of the Public Procurement Directives of 24.07.2006, OJ C 179/2 of 1.8.2006.

<sup>8</sup> COM(2004) 327.

<sup>9</sup> Communication from the Commission on Public-Private Partnerships and Community Law on Public Procurement and Concessions, COM(2005) 569 final.

In 2006 the Competition DG published its staff working document "Vademecum on State aid control and regeneration of deprived urban areas", which is available on the Competition DG website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/state\\_aid/studies\\_reports/vademecum.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/state_aid/studies_reports/vademecum.pdf)

This document sets out the overall policy, presents the most important State aid measures approved in the urban regeneration field and summarises the current State aid guidelines and communications relevant to urban regeneration. The Vademecum is purely informative and does not create a new urban regeneration State aid policy but serves as a guide for practitioners in the field.

## **2. THE EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY**

### **2.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

Cities make a critical contribution to sustainable development. Efforts to establish competitive, inclusive and vibrant urban economies will become more and more important in the future. In some urban areas, social polarisation continues to be a major challenge leading to multiple disadvantages, particularly for the elderly and single parent households. Therefore special efforts should be made in fighting child poverty to break the cycle of deprivation and particular attention should be given to the situation of disabled, immigrants and ethnic minorities<sup>10</sup>.

Demographic trends, social exclusion and flows of migration create pressure for better housing and basic service provision. These challenges also require a new approach towards urban governance. The European Social Fund, and in particular its scope under the Convergence objective, is well placed to support reforms aimed at better urban governance and management. Cities concentrate both needs and opportunities. While on the one hand, highly qualified people are over-represented in cities, so are those with very low skills and levels of qualifications. Cities also face specific problems such as a high share of the working poor as well as whole sectors of the informal economy.

#### *Past and current initiatives*

The European Employment Strategy (EES),<sup>11</sup> launched in 1997, recognises that the objectives of full employment, improving quality at work and strengthening social cohesion cannot be achieved without greater participation of the regional and local levels. In a move to strengthen the social dimension of the EES, the Commission committed itself to the modernisation and development of the European social model as well as to the promotion of social cohesion with the adoption of the "[Social Agenda 2005-2010](#)"<sup>12</sup> in February 2005. The Agenda identifies the priorities – employment and equal opportunities and inclusion – that are also crucial when addressing the challenges of cities.

Member States also co-ordinate their policies for combating poverty and social exclusion on the basis of a process of policy exchanges and mutual learning

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<sup>10</sup> SEC(2007) 329

<sup>11</sup> Website on the EES: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/employment\\_strategy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_strategy/index_en.htm)

<sup>12</sup> COM (2005) 33.

known as the 'Open Method of Coordination' (OMC), including on eradicating poverty and social exclusion.

Some initiatives may be useful to face urban challenges:

- a) The [Directive establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation](#)<sup>13</sup> applies to all persons, as regards both the public and private sectors, including public bodies. It covers, notably, conditions for access to employment and vocational training, employment and working conditions.
- b) The communication of the Commission, "[Roadmap for equality between women and men, 2006-2010](#)"<sup>14</sup> outlines six priority areas – such as equal economic independence for women and men, reconciliation of private and professional life, equal representation in decision-making, eradication of all forms of gender-based violence, combating stereotypes – and priority objectives and actions that may be undertaken at national, regional and local levels.<sup>15</sup>
- c) The communication "[Implementing the Community Lisbon programme: Social services of general interest in the European Union](#)"<sup>16</sup> aims to identify and recognise the specific characteristics of social and health services of general interest and to clarify the framework in which they operate and can be modernised. It concerns cities as an increasing decentralisation of the organisation of these services to local or regional level is observed.
- d) The Communication entitled "[Implementing the partnership for growth and jobs: making Europe a pole of excellence on corporate social responsibility](#)"<sup>17</sup> an enterprise exercises corporate social responsibility (CSR) when it acts voluntarily (i.e. beyond the law) to further social and environmental goals within its normal business operations. CSR is important at the local level, and especially in often highly-charged urban environments. A company being socially-responsible at the local level will be prepared to engage with local authorities and other stakeholders to encourage the local community to prosper. It will also undertake activities such as providing careers advice to local schools, or providing volunteers to cater for particular local needs. Being socially responsible also has implications for the quality of working life for local employees, for training provision, and for the extent to which a company contributes to a clean local environment.
- e) In March 2006, the European Council adopted a new framework for the social protection and social inclusion process. There is a new set of common objectives:

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<sup>13</sup> Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000, OJ L 303/16 of 2.12.2000.

<sup>14</sup> COM(2006) 92.

<sup>15</sup> The six areas are: equal economic independence for women and men; reconciliation of private and professional life; equal representation in decision-making; eradication of all forms of gender-based violence; elimination of gender stereotypes; promotion of gender equality in external and development policies.

<sup>16</sup> COM(2006) 177.

<sup>17</sup> COM(2006) 136.

three overarching objectives and objectives for each of the three policy areas of social inclusion, pensions and health and long-term care.<sup>18</sup>

f) The Communication "Concerning a consultation on action at EU level to promote the active inclusion of the people furthest from the labour market"<sup>19</sup> launched a two-stage consultation of all key stakeholders including public authorities at all levels. This initiative aims at mapping out possible directions for action at European level to support the social and labour market integration of marginalised people. It is based on an integrated policy mix combining three elements, namely a link to the labour market through job opportunities or training, income support sufficient to lead a dignified life and better access to services. After the first stage consultation in 2006, the Commission is due to publish a new Communication at the end of 2007 with its recommendations, launching the second stage consultation.

## **2.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013**

### *2.2.1. European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)*

The [European Globalisation Adjustment Fund](#)<sup>20</sup> (from 1 January 2007 onwards) aims to enable the Community to provide targeted support for the re-integration into employment of workers made redundant as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns.

#### *a) Management*

The European Commission (Employment DG) can award a financial contribution to be implemented by the Member State.

Once a redundancy is formally notified to the Member State, and after the expiry of the period of negotiation required by national legislation, the Member State may apply to the Commission for a financial contribution to help the workers made redundant. The Budgetary Authority decides on the financial allocation and its amount, following a Commission proposal.

#### *b) Eligible actions*

Actions that are part of a coordinated package of personalised services designed to reintegrate redundant workers into the labour market, including:

- Job-search assistance, occupational guidance, tailor-made training including ICT skills and certification of acquired experience, outplacement assistance and entrepreneurship promotion or aid for self-employment;
- Special time-limited measures, such as job-search allowances or allowances to individuals participating in lifelong learning and training activities;
- Measures to stimulate in particular disadvantaged or older workers, to remain in or to return to the labour market.

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<sup>18</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_inclusion/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/index_en.htm)

<sup>19</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_inclusion/active\\_inclusion\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/active_inclusion_en.htm)

<sup>20</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, OJ L 406/1 of 30.12.2006.

*c) Eligible beneficiaries*

The final beneficiaries of the EGF are the workers made redundant under certain conditions (see the regulation on the EGF).

*d) Budget*

The maximum amount of expenditure from the Fund can be up to €500 million per year.

For further information, contact:

European Commission, Employment DG, Unit B4 "Community Initiatives, European Globalisation Adjustment Fund":  
[empl-egf-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:empl-egf-info@ec.europa.eu)

An internet web site providing information on the EGF and guidance for applicants is being set up.

*2.2.2. Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS*

The [PROGRESS](#)<sup>21</sup> programme is due to replace, for the period 2007-2013, existing Community programmes and budget lines in the fields of employment, social inclusion and protection, working conditions, gender equality and anti-discrimination. The overall objective of the PROGRESS programme is to support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area and thereby, in the context of the Lisbon Strategy, contribute to achieving the objectives of the Social Agenda. It is therefore important to see how it is complementary to the cohesion policy for urban areas.

*a) Management*

PROGRESS is managed by the European Commission (Employment DG) that launches calls for proposals.

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<sup>21</sup> Decision No 1672/2006/EC of 24 October 2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS, OJ L 315/1 of 15.11.2006.

*b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

The PROGRESS programme is divided into five sections: (1) Employment; (2) Social Protection; (3) Working Conditions; (4) Anti-discrimination and diversity; (5) Gender Equality.

*c) Eligible actions*

The following actions may be supported:

- analytical activities that improve the understanding of the Social Policy Agenda issues, contribute to its effective implementation and help to improve coordination with other EU policy areas and strategies;
- activities involving mutual learning, exchanges of information, awareness-raising, identifying and promoting good practice and measures related to monitoring and evaluation (e.g. peer reviews) that help to establish the state-of-play in Member States and, in this way, improve the application of Community rules;
- activities that support the main stakeholders in order to promote the exchange of good practice, the sharing of information, preventive awareness-raising measures, as well as discussion processes.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

Public and private bodies, local and regional authorities and relevant actors and stakeholders (universities and research institutes, as well as the social partners and non-governmental organisations).

*e) Budget*

An amount of 628.8 million euros is allocated for the period 2007-2013.

*f) Further information*

List of Contact Points in EMPLOYMENT DG regarding each section of PROGRESS:

Section (1) Employment: Units D1 "Employment analysis" and D2 "European Employment Strategy"

Section (2) Social Inclusion and Social Protection: Unit E2 "Inclusion, Social Policy aspects of Migration, Streamlining of Social Policies" and E4 "Social Protection, social services".

Section (3) Working Conditions: F2 "Working Conditions and adaptation to change" and F4 "Health, Safety and Hygiene at work"

Section (4) Non-Discrimination and Diversity: G4 "Action against discrimination and civil society", G3 "Integration of disabled people" and G2 "Equality, action against discrimination".

Section (5) Gender equality: G1 "Equality between women and men" and G2 "Equality, Action against Discrimination: legal questions".

For the relevant documents (work programme, calls for proposals) and updated information, see the website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/progress/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.html)

### 2.2.3. *The European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (2007)*

This initiative, in which citizens, representatives of local authorities and active members of civil society have a vital role to play, aims to give a renewed impetus to the fight against discrimination in changing behaviour and mentality. New trends, such as the European Union's ageing population and its increasingly multiethnic makeup, especially in urban areas, have to be managed. Immigrants and other vulnerable groups tend to live in cities, particularly capitals and large cities. Whereas this cultural diversity offers some strong opportunities, cities must promote employment and combat discrimination in order to facilitate the integration of these populations.

#### *a) Management*

A national implementing body, in charge of coordinating the European Year activities in each Member State, is designated by each country. It decides on a national strategy for the Year, plus specific proposals for national awareness-raising campaigns, on which basis the calls for proposals will be launched.

#### *b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

Rights – Raising awareness on the right to equality and non-discrimination and on the problem of multiple discrimination,

Representation – Stimulating debate on ways to increase the participation of groups in society which are victims of discrimination and a balanced participation of men and women,

Recognition – facilitating and celebrating diversity and equality: organisation of an open debate on the meaning of diversity in contemporary Europe and ways of valuing differences in society,

Respect – Promoting a more cohesive society: raising awareness among the public and the people concerned to the importance of eradicating clichés, stereotypes and violence, and promoting good relations among all members of society, particularly young people.

#### *c) Eligible actions*

At national, regional or local level in the Member States, the following actions, among others, may be supported:

- Meetings and events, including at least one national event to launch the European Year

- Educational and promotional campaigns and measures with a strong multiplier effect to disseminate the principles and underlying values celebrated by the Year at national level
- A writing competition for schools on the theme of respect and tolerance;
- A prize for companies deploying effective diversity policies;
- A workshop attended by local bodies representing people who suffer from discrimination;
- A support agency for the disabled and an organisation representing migrants would therefore be able to consider approaches for facilitating equal treatment in local services, such as housing or education.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

Public authorities, including cities, organisations and citizens.

*e) Budget*

EUR 15 million covering activities at national, regional and local levels on the one hand and at EU level on the other.

*f) Further information*

Contact the national implementing bodies:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/eyeq/index.cfm?cat\\_id=NB&](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?cat_id=NB&)

For the relevant documents and updated information, see the website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/eyeq/index.cfm?&](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?&)

### **2.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

A future database of the projects supported by the PROGRESS programme will be available on the following Internet site:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/progress/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.html)

### **2.4. Information sources**

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities  
Unit A1: European Social Fund (ESF) Coordination and  
Unit D2: European Employment Strategy, CSR, Local Development

*Websites*

Brochures, calls for projects and other documents published by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities are available on the site:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/emplweb/publications/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/publications/index_en.cfm)

EURES - the European Jobs mobility portal. It offers free access to about 1 million job vacancies in 30 European countries:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/emplweb/news/news\\_en.cfm?id=156](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=156)

## *Publications in 2007*

- "Brochure on the Community Programme in the sphere of employment and social solidarity – PROGRESS"
- "Employment in Europe 2007"
- "National public policies on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the new Member States"
- "Combating discrimination through positive action – annual thematic brochure"
- "Brochure on multiple discrimination in the European Union"
- Annual Report on Gender Equality

### **3. THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

#### **3.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

Most cities are confronted with a common core of environmental problems, such as poor air quality, high levels of traffic and congestion, high levels of ambient noise, poor-quality built environment, derelict land, greenhouse gas emissions, urban sprawl, and generation of waste and waste-water.

The environmental problems in cities are particularly complex as their causes are inter-related. Local initiatives to resolve one problem can lead to new problems elsewhere and can conflict with policies at national or regional level. Problems related to a poor quality built environment are often linked to underlying socio-economic problems.

However cities are also the economic drivers, the places where business is done and investments are made. Therefore it is essential to make them more attractive, healthier and liveable places.

#### *a) Past and current initiatives*

The 1990 Green Paper on the Urban Environment<sup>22</sup> was the start of a new focus at the European level on urban issues. Recognising that the majority of Community policies have, directly or indirectly, an influence on urban areas, represented a first step towards moving beyond sectoral approaches, considering the social and economic factors that are often at the root of environmental problems.

Following the 1998 Commission Communication on "Sustainable Urban Development in the European Union: A Framework for Action",<sup>23</sup> the Council and European Parliament adopted in 2001 the "[Community Framework for](#)

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<sup>22</sup> COM (90) 218.

<sup>23</sup> COM (98) 605.

[cooperation to promote sustainable urban development](#)<sup>24</sup> (2001-2004) to define exchange and implement good practices in the framework of Agenda 21. This initiative was addressed to networks of towns and cities organised at European level.

In 2002, the Council and European Parliament adopted the [Sixth Environmental Action Programme](#) (6th EAP),<sup>25</sup> the environmental component of the Community's strategy for sustainable development, which lays down environmental objectives and priorities for the period 2002-2012.

The 6th EAP requires the European Commission to prepare Thematic Strategies covering seven areas that provide a policy framework for up to 2020. The [Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment](#)<sup>26</sup> provides a framework for an integrated and focused approach using existing policy instruments and initiatives. It calls for better management of urban areas through integrated environmental management at the local level. More concretely, the measures proposed in the Strategy are:

- Technical guidance on (1) "An integrated approach to managing the urban environment"; and (2) "Developing sustainable urban transport plans", provided by the Environment Directorate-General, drawing on experiences and giving practice examples based on stakeholder consultations;
- Support for exchange of best practice using Community funding instruments (such as LIFE+, Cohesion and Research Policy) for demonstration projects and networking between national focal points;
- Support for training and capacity building by using Community funding instruments (e.g. the LIFE+ Programme and the European Social Fund);
- Assess the feasibility of establishing a Commission web portal for local authorities.

Urban development actors have also to take into account relevant legislation such as the Water Framework Directive,<sup>27</sup> the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive,<sup>28</sup> the Directive on Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management,<sup>29</sup> the Directive on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise<sup>30</sup> and the Waste Framework Directive.<sup>31</sup>

#### *b) Future initiatives*

Further information on the Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment will be provided later.

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<sup>24</sup> Decision No 1411/2001/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on a Community Framework for cooperation to promote sustainable urban development, OJ L 191/1 of 13.7.2001.

<sup>25</sup> Decision No 1600/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2002 laying down the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme, OJ L 242/1 of 10.9.2002.

<sup>26</sup> COM (2005) 718 final.

<sup>27</sup> European Parliament and Council Directive 2000/60/EC, OJ L 327/1 of 22.12.2000.

<sup>28</sup> Council Directive 91/271/EC, OJ L 135/40 of 30.5.1991.

<sup>29</sup> Council Directive 96/62/EC, OJ L 296/55 of 21.11.1996.

<sup>30</sup> European Parliament and Council Directive 2002/49/EC, OJ L 189/12 of 18.7.2002.

### 3.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013: Life Plus Programme

From 1992 to 2006, the LIFE programme, the main financial instrument for the environment, has co-financed an average of 11 projects on the urban environment annually, totalling 158 projects. The high number of Romanian (39%), Slovakian (33%) and Estonian (14%) LIFE-Environment projects focusing on urban issues may reflect the particular difficulties faced by cities and towns in new Member States. Considering the special role and responsibility that local authorities have in managing the urban environment, it is not surprising that they constituted almost 55% of the LIFE-Environment beneficiaries of urban projects, as opposed to their 21% overall share of LIFE-Environment projects.

The [LIFE+ Programme](#)<sup>32</sup> is running from 2007-2013.

It supports the implementation of the 6th Environmental Action Programme, including the thematic strategies on urban environment, and finance measures and projects with European added value in Member States. LIFE+ has three components,<sup>33</sup> including LIFE+ Environment and Governance that are of interest to urban issues.

#### a) *Management*

The Commission will manage the programme by way of annual calls for proposals.

#### b) *Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

- Climate change: the European Climate Change Programme (and any successor);
- Environment and health: including the Environment and Health Action plan, the Water Framework Directive, Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) and the Marine, Soil, Urban and Pesticides Thematic Strategies;
- Sustainable use of resources: the resources and waste prevention and recycling thematic strategies, sustainable production and consumption strategies.

#### c) *Eligible actions*

- studies, surveys, modelling and scenario-building,
- monitoring,
- capacity-building assistance,
- training, workshops and meetings,

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<sup>31</sup> Council Directive 75/442/EEC last amended in 2003.

<sup>32</sup> Regulation n° 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+), OJL 149/1 of 9.6.2007. The Common position was adopted by the Council on 27 June 2006.

<sup>33</sup> The LIFE+ Programme (2007-2013): LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance, LIFE+ Information and Communication.

- networking,
- best practice platforms,
- awareness-raising campaigns,
- information and communication actions,
- demonstration of policy approaches and instruments.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions, including cities and municipalities.

*e) Budget*

The budget foreseen for the 2007-2013 period is EUR 2 143 409 000. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

*f) Further information*

Contact point at the Environment DG – website of the "LIFE Unit":

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

For the relevant documents and updated information on the Programme, see:

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

### **3.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

LIFE projects database:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

"Best LIFE-Environment projects (2005 - 2006)", Environment DG, 2006:

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

"LIFE in the city: innovative solutions for Europe's urban environment", Environment DG, 2006:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/urban\\_lr.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/urban_lr.pdf)

### **3.4. Information sources**

The Directorate-General for Environment on Urban Environment:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/urban/home\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/urban/home_en.htm)

The LIFE Programme: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

## **4. THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

### **4.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

Cities house 80% of Europe's population and most of the social and environmental challenges. Steps to create sustainable urban living must be underpinned by high quality research.

#### *Past and current initiatives*

At the Barcelona Council (15 and 16 March 2002), the Member States decided to close the gap between the EU and its major competitors in the fields of Research and Development innovation. They agreed that overall spending on Research and Development and innovation in the Union should be increased from 1.9% of GDP to around 3% by 2010. In response, the Commission adopted some initiatives aiming at pursuing this objective and recognising the important role played at the regional and local levels:

- Communication "More research for Europe: towards 3% of GDP":<sup>34</sup> it aims at launching a debate between Member States, industry and other stakeholders, including cities and regions. It recognises that "even where action has been launched and agreed at European level, more needs to be done to ensure that it is delivering results at national and local levels". Appropriate local infrastructures and diffusion of knowledge within the EU must be guaranteed at local level.
- Action plan "Investing in research: an action plan for Europe":<sup>35</sup> it sets out initiatives required, including at regional level, to give Europe a stronger public research base and to make it much more attractive to private investment in research and innovation.
- Report "Creating an innovative Europe":<sup>36</sup> it assesses the situation and makes proposals to boost Europe's research and innovation performance. It proposes a combination of a market for innovative goods and services, focussed resources, new financial structures and mobility of people, money and organisations. It recognises the regional and local government bodies as institutions whose task is to support innovation, particularly by SMEs.

### **4.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013 – Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological development and Demonstration activities**

Since 1984 the successive Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development (FPs) have been the main financial tools through which the European Union supports research and development activities covering almost all scientific disciplines.

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<sup>34</sup> COM(2002) 499.

<sup>35</sup> COM(2003) 266 final/2.

<sup>36</sup> "Report of the independent Expert group on R&D and innovation appointed following the Hampton Court summit and chaired by Mr. Esko AHO", January 2005.

Within the 5th Framework Programme (1998-2002), EU research on urban issues was supported mainly within two Key-Actions: the Key-Action "Sustainable Mobility and Intermodality" and the Key-Action "City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage".

With 140 projects and a €170 million total budget, the "City of tomorrow and cultural heritage" Key-Action was addressing urban issues in a holistic and integrated way in order to provide local stakeholders with the practical tools and knowledge for sustainable urban development. In addition to the strong involvement of urban end-users in the FP projects, on average 5-6 cities are participating in each project including as coordinator.

Within the 6th Framework Programme (2002-2006), urban issues were addressed within two main Thematic Priorities: "Sustainable Surface Transport" and "Global change and Ecosystems". The limited funding available was mainly dedicated to addressing relevant EU policy research needs and stimulating the dissemination of new knowledge generated by EU research for urban sustainability to applied research and demonstration activities in the field of transport and energy.

In the [7th Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities](#) (2007-2013),<sup>37</sup> urban-related issues are spread across the ["Cooperation" Specific Programme](#).<sup>38</sup> It concerns five out of eight different themes. The broad objectives of FP7 have been grouped into four categories: Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities. The "Cooperation" Specific Programme is designed to support transnational cooperation on defined research themes, between universities, industry, research centres and public authorities across the European Union as well as the rest of the world. Information on the Specific Programme "Cooperation" is provided below.

*a) Management*

The FP7 specific programme "Cooperation" is managed by the European Commission that launches calls for proposals. The calls for proposals under FP7 are set out in annual work programmes (one per Specific Programme) which provide details about the topics, funding schemes, beneficiaries, timings and implementation.

*b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

- Information and communication technologies (also see chapters 7 and 8 of this guide)
- Energy (also see chapter 6 of this guide)
- Environment

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<sup>37</sup> Decision No 1982/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013), OJ L 412/1 of 30.12.2006.

<sup>38</sup> Council Decision No 2006/971/EC of 19 December 2006 concerning the Specific Programme Cooperation implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007 to 2013), OJ L 400/86 of 30.12.2006.

- Transport (also see chapter 5 of this guide)
  - Socio-economic sciences and humanities
- The "Information and communication technologies" research theme aims to improve the competitiveness of European industry and enable Europe to master and shape the future developments of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) so that the demands of its society and economy are met. Urban actions may be financed under "Integration of technologies" (home environments such as buildings and public spaces) and "Applications Research" (ICT meeting societal challenges, including e-government, e-health and e-inclusion) activities.
  - The "Energy" research theme supports the development and demonstration of concepts and technologies to improve energy efficiency and enable energy consumption savings, over their life cycle, for buildings, transport, services and industry. Urban-related activities include the integration of strategies and technologies for energy efficiency (including co- and poly-generation), the use of new and renewable energy technologies and energy demand management measures and devices, and the demonstration of minimum climate impact buildings, which will be more specifically addressed.
  - The main objective of the "Environment" research theme is to advance our knowledge on the interactions between climate, biosphere, ecosystems and human activities, and to develop new technologies, tools and services for the sustainable development of the environment and its resources. It recognises the urbanisation pressure. Relevant urban issues should be addressed from the perspectives of "Climate Change, Pollution and risks" (emissions and health risks), the "Management of resources" (sustainable management and planning of urban environment), "Environmental technologies" (including technologies for water and waste treatment and management; sustainable built environment; and the protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage), and "Assessment tools for sustainable development" (in particular the knowledge base and methodologies for sustainability impact assessment).
  - The "Transport" research theme aims at promoting technological advances, developing integrated, "greener", "smarter" and safer pan-European transport systems for the benefit of all citizens and society, respecting the environment and natural resources. Within the "Surface Transport" activity, there will be a dedicated priority area on "Ensuring Sustainable Urban Mobility". The research priorities should be covering the following five research areas: new transport and mobility concepts, high quality public transport, demand management, innovative strategies for clean urban transport, policy support.
  - Within the "Socio-economic sciences and humanities" research theme, the research priorities address key societal, economic and cultural challenges facing Europe and the world now and in the future. In the first call, under the heading "Combining economic, social and environmental objectives", research will address the role of cities, urban development and related governance issues, as well as cities and social cohesion. Under the heading "Major trends in society and their implications", it will address the

implications of demographic change for urban development, and interactions between diverse cultures in urban spaces. It will also address how culture and creativity have interacted in the historical experiences of European cities.

*c) Eligible actions*

Within the FP7, specific attention will be paid to the support to policies, international cooperation and the dissemination and exploitation of results.

The project participants must form a consortium. Urban development actors submit proposals under the following funding schemes in the framework of the Specific Programme "Cooperation":

- Collaborative projects: support to research projects carried out by consortia with participants from different countries, aiming at developing new knowledge, new technology, products or common resources for research. Projects can range from small or medium-scale focused research actions to larger integrating projects which mobilise a significant volume of resources for achieving a defined objective.
- Coordination and support actions: support to activities aimed at coordinating or supporting research such as networking, exchanges, studies, conferences, etc.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

The criteria of eligibility, including the number of participants to a consortium, depend on the type of funding schemes adopted. As a general rule, cities and local stakeholders can participate as consortium member in most research activities. Their participation is certainly encouraged for urban-related topics where they can contribute either to the research itself as end-user or for the dissemination and exploitation activities.

*e) Budget*

EUR 54 281 million are allocated for the 2007-2013 period. There is no specific allocation for urban development projects.

*f) Further information*

The contact point will be different from one research theme to another and will be specified within each call for proposals.

For the relevant documents (annual work programme and calls for proposals) and updated information on the FP7, consult the website: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

### **4.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

FP5 "City of tomorrow and cultural heritage" Key-Action website:  
<http://www.cordis.lu/eesd/ka4/home.html>

The transfer to non-EU countries is also ensured through the collaboration with UN-Habitat and the development of a common on-line database of research results and best practices: <http://www.susta-info.net/>

In support of the Aalborg Commitments signatories and more generally sustainable urban policies, ACTOR (Aalborg Commitments Tools and Resources, a FP6 project) is developing an on-line toolkit and guidance: <http://www.actor.sustainable-cities.org.uk/index.html>.

The new portal to be developed (first prototype expected by April 2007) will integrate an on-line tool previously developed for the assessment of local agenda 21 processes ([www.localevaluation21.org](http://www.localevaluation21.org)) and the target setting exercise for local authorities (STATUS project: <http://www.sustainable-cities.org.uk/status/index.html>).

The support for the implementation of the most promising new mobility concepts was carried out within the NICHES Coordination Action to move them from their "niche" position to a "mainstream" urban transport policy application in cities: <http://www.niches-transport.org>

A European Research Forum for Urban Mobility (EURFORUM) is being supported to better structure and coordinate European research on urban mobility for both passengers and goods by involving all relevant stakeholders: <http://www.eurforum.net/html/>

The [ESCITY FP6](#) project aims at promoting scientific culture within the context of the cultural policies of cities. It will create a network for the exchange of information and best practices in the promotion of scientific culture at the local level. The project, which started in March 2006, includes five municipalities from five European cities and a University.

#### **4.4. Information sources**

##### *Websites*

Cordis: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home.html>

Research DG and the FP7: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/home_en.html)

Information on "Urban sustainability and Cultural heritage" research theme: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/themes/article\\_1354\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/themes/article_1354_en.htm)

##### *Publications*

Publication series "EU research for sustainable urban development and land use": [http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/environment/newsanddoc/other\\_pubs\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/environment/newsanddoc/other_pubs_en.htm)

Electronic Newsletter "SusDev News": [http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/environment/newsanddoc/newsletter\\_en.htm#2](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/environment/newsanddoc/newsletter_en.htm#2)

European Research in action – "Urban Research": [http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/leaflets/urban\\_research/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/leaflets/urban_research/index_en.html)

### *Forthcoming events*

Transport Research Arena Europe (TRA) 2008 Conference, Ljubljana (Slovenia), 21-25 April 2008. For more information, see: <http://www.traconference.com/>

## **5. THE EUROPEAN TRANSPORT POLICY**

### **5.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

Clean and efficient urban transport systems are essential for the economic, social and environmental health of a successful future Europe. Citizens and businesses expect access to clean and efficient mobility, especially in the face of significant international competition. However, built-up urban areas continue to be significant contributors to congestion, accidents and environmental impact and offer significant scope for improvement. How to ensure efficient mobility while at the same time reducing congestion, accidents and pollution is a common challenge across Europe.

The EU supports and promotes an integrated approach to urban transport problems. However, it is usually local authorities, rather than the EU, which take the lead on urban mobility projects (often with support from EU funding programmes). The EU also provides support, for example, through projects that help to identify, disseminate and exchange best practice in areas such as transport infrastructure, norm-setting, congestion and traffic management, public transport services, infrastructure charging, urban planning, traffic safety, mobility services for people and for goods, and co-operation with the surrounding regions.

The European policy for transport is complemented by the European policy on Information and Communication Technologies (see chapter 7).

### *Past and current initiatives*

[Mid-term review of the White Paper "European Transport Policy for 2010: Time to Decide"](#)<sup>39</sup> identifies sustainable mobility and urban transport as priority areas and announces that the Commission will publish a Green Paper on urban transport in 2007.

[Green Paper on "Energy Efficiency or Doing More with Less"](#)<sup>40</sup> makes clear that more needs to be done to improve energy efficiency in the transport sector, particularly the road transport sector.

[Green Paper on "A European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy Supply"](#)<sup>41</sup> proposes major efforts to improve energy efficiency in the transport sector and to rapidly improve public transport in Europe's major cities.

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<sup>39</sup> COM (2006) 314 final.

<sup>40</sup> COM (2005) 265 final.

<sup>41</sup> COM (2006) 105 final.

[Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment](#):<sup>42</sup> it recognises that action in the field of urban transport needs to be taken at all levels (local, regional, national and European).

12010 intelligent car initiative<sup>43</sup> "Raising Awareness of ICT for Smarter, Safer and Cleaner Vehicles". It aims at promoting integrated means to improve safety and efficiency in transport.

Accessibility for Transport Issues: the Directorate-General for Transport and Energy (DG TREN) applies the principle of mainstreaming of disability issues in all its policies and actions in line with the EU Disability Action Plan 2005-2009. This is also reflected in the Commission Communication "Reinforcing passengers' rights in the European Union: the way forward",<sup>44</sup> which sets out the Commission's strategy for reinforcing passengers' rights in all modes of transport until 2010 and beyond.

The European programmes for radio navigation by satellite, EGNOS and GALILEO, allow the development of unique positioning instruments which will facilitate urban mobility and generate levels of service suited to the current needs of citizens.

#### *Future initiatives*

The Commission has proposed a Directive on Clean Vehicle Procurement<sup>45</sup> designed to increase market share for clean vehicles through public procurement measures. The proposal is currently being considered by the EU institutions.

The Commission has announced the publication of a Green Paper on urban transport in 2007. The paper, "Towards a new culture for urban mobility" will be published in autumn 2007. The Green Paper will examine whether there are obstacles to urban transport policy at the EU level and where, while fully respecting subsidiarity, there is a consensus to develop and implement joint solutions of European interest. The Green Paper will cover all urban transport modes (including walking, cycling, motorcycles, taxis, cars, collective transport, etc) and will deal with both urban freight and passenger transport. The Green Paper will address different issues of urban transport in towns and cities in Europe, such as congestion, environment, Intelligent Transport Systems, accessibility, safety and security and financial instruments. A set of questions will be part of the Green Paper. All interested parties will be invited to contribute to the vision of a European policy for urban mobility.

In view of the preparation of the Green paper, a broad consultation has been carried out during the first half of 2007, with stakeholders and the wider public. Large conferences with participation from expert up to ministerial level were organized by the European Commission, starting the consultation period on 31 January 2007, and closing it on 4 June 2007, respectively. Technical Workshops on the specific themes of Green Propulsion, Financing, Intermodality and

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<sup>42</sup> COM (2005) 718 final.

<sup>43</sup> COM (2006) 59 final

<sup>44</sup> COM (2005) 47 final.

<sup>45</sup> Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of clean road transport vehicles, COM (2005) 634 final.

Intelligent Transport, and Integrated Urban Transport Approaches were held in the meantime. An internet consultation was opened by the European Commission for two months in March and April 2007 and provided 915 responses from individuals, associations, and public bodies. In 64 contributions and position papers from different organizations, a broad discussion and proposals on urban transport policy measures were presented. The Joint Expert Group on Transport and Environment discussed the topic of urban transport and clean and energy efficient vehicles in particular in a Topical Meeting.

The European Commission is also preparing an update of the communication "i2010 intelligent car initiative", which will be published in September 2007. The communication will summarize the progress achieved up to now and will suggest next preference actions.

## **5.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013**

### *5.2.1. Seventh Framework Programme for Research, technological development and demonstration activities (FP7)*

The FP7 specific programme "Cooperation" aims to support transnational cooperation between relevant stakeholders in defined areas. It supports activities to promote clean urban transport strategies through the "Transport" and "Energy" research themes. For general information on the FP7, see chapter 4 "The European Research and Development Policy".

#### 1.- Thematic approach: "Transport" and "Energy" research themes

"Transport" research theme: The "Surface transport" activity aims at ensuring sustainable urban mobility for all citizens. It is expected that research will cover new transport and mobility concepts, high quality public transport, strategies for clean urban transport, demand management measures, and the promotion of non-polluting modes such as cycling and walking. The FP7 also support the production and use of alternative fuels in the road transport sector.

"Energy" research theme: The EU has announced a target of at least 20% petrol and diesel substitution by alternative fuels by 2020. The three main candidates are likely to be biofuels, natural gas and hydrogen. The "Energy" research theme supports a number of alternative motor fuels demonstration projects such as "Biofuel Cities", and "Hydrogen for Transport", including the "HyFLEET: CUTE" project which will see the operation of 47 hydrogen fuel cell buses in 10 cities across Europe, as well as in Australia and China.

HyFLEET: CUTE project: [www.global-hydrogen-bus-platform.com](http://www.global-hydrogen-bus-platform.com)

BEST: <http://www.best-europe.org/>

#### *a) Eligible beneficiaries*

Consortia including public and private partners such as industry, utilities, transport operators, cities, consultants, research institutes, etc.

*b) Further information*

The contact point will be different from one research theme to another and will be specified within each call for proposals.

For the relevant documents (annual work programme and calls for proposals) and updated information on the FP7, consult the website: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

2.- Integrated approach: CIVITAS Plus Initiative

Under the CIVITAS Plus Initiative, the Commission is co-funding projects which address energy and transport issues in a coherent manner: the initiative is co-financed 50%-50% by the transport and energy priorities of the Framework Programmes.

The CIVITAS Plus Initiative helps cities to achieve more sustainable, clean and energy efficient urban transport systems by implementing, demonstrating and evaluating an ambitious integrated mix of technology and policy-based measures.

*a) Eligible actions*

CIVITAS Plus will support demonstration projects of integrated packages of technology and policy measures in the field of clean and energy efficient urban transport. Each city-led project should combine, in an integrated way, tools and measures from as many as possible of the following categories. It should contribute to increasing use of (short/medium term) alternative fuels and of clean and energy-efficient vehicles, and their integration into the transport system; stimulation of high quality and innovative energy-efficient collective transport and of its integration with other modes; demand management strategies; mobility management; marketing, information and education; safe and secure road infrastructure and means of travel for all users; new mobility services for more energy efficient vehicle use or ownership; less car-dependent lifestyles; energy-efficient urban freight logistics; new concepts for goods distribution; innovative telematics systems for traffic management and traveller services (Galileo applications).

Furthermore, CIVITAS Plus will support two separate support actions with a view to developing and undertaking an independent evaluation and monitoring programme, and implementing European-level co-ordination, dissemination and awareness-raising activities.

*b) Eligible beneficiaries*

City-led consortia, including public and private partners such as transport operators, research institutes and universities, industry, consultants, NGOs, etc. may respond to CIVITAS plus annual calls for proposals.

*c) Budget*

For the previous period, the total EC contribution to CIVITAS (CIVITAS I + CIVITAS II) to date amounts to EUR 100 million.

*d) Further information*

Contact point: [tren-civitas@ec.europa.eu](mailto:tren-civitas@ec.europa.eu)

For the relevant documents and updated information, see:

<http://www.civitas-initiative.eu/main.phtml?id=&language=en>

*5.2.2. "Intelligent Energy Europe" programme (2007-2013)*

The Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme is financed under the [Competitiveness and Innovation Programme](#) (CIP),<sup>46</sup> as the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme and the ICT Policy Support Programme. The CIP provides funding for actions to enhance competitiveness and innovation, complementing the research-oriented activities promoted by the FP7. The IEE Programme is a non-technological programme that aims at removing market barriers to the increased use of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

*a) Management*

The IEE Programme is managed by the Intelligent Energy Executive Agency (IEEA) that launches annual calls for proposals.

*b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

The IEE Programme is structured in three specific fields, including the STEER sub-programme that provides support for initiatives relating to all energy aspects of transport, through developing new and renewable energy sources, the promotion of renewable fuels and energy efficiency in transport.

*c) Eligible actions*

The IEE programme does not fund technical research projects. It acts rather as a catalyst for socio-economic, market, regulatory, policy and institutional changes: e.g. international transfer of experience, promotion of best practices, education and training, institutional capacity building, dissemination of projects, market replication projects, information dissemination, creation of new standards and norms, etc.

Innovatory techniques, processes or products, which have already been technically demonstrated with success but have not yet penetrated the market, will also be supported from 2008.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

Any organisations, such as public and private partners (local agencies, transport operators, cities, research institutes, NGOs...). A minimum of three partners should participate with objectives that have a European-wide impact.

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<sup>46</sup> Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013), OJ L 310/15 of 9.11.2006.

e) *Budget*

The budget for the CIP is EUR 3 621 300 000, 20% will be allocated to the IEE Programme.

f) *Further information*

For the relevant documents (work programme, calls for proposals, user manual), new projects in the pipeline for 2007 and updated information, see: [http://www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index\\_en.html](http://www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html)

### **5.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

The **CIVITAS Forum** provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences on clean vehicles, alternative fuels and innovative measures to improve urban transport: <http://www.civitas-initiative.eu>

The European Local Transport Information Service, **ELTIS**, offers on-line information about EU, national, regional and local policy, publications, events and other issues relevant for the urban transport community. It also includes a database with more than 500 good practice case studies: [www.eltis.org](http://www.eltis.org)

Stakeholders will be invited to participate throughout the process (internet consultation, technical workshops and conferences, etc.) in the context of the preparation of the Green Paper on Urban Transport which will be published in 2007.

### **5.4. Information sources**

*Websites*

Website of the DG TREN on Transport:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/index_en.html)

CIVITAS: <http://www.civitas-initiative.eu/main.phtml?id=&language=en>

ELTIS: [www.eltis.org](http://www.eltis.org)

The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme:  
[http://www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index\\_en.html](http://www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html)

*Publications*

Manuals, technical and policy reports are available on the CIVITAS website download centre: <http://www.civitas-initiative.eu/main.phtml?id=&language=en>

## **6. THE EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY**

### **6.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

Urban areas are the largest consumers of energy; around 80% of total energy is consumed by towns and cities in Europe. The energy demand of urban areas, the improvement of the energy efficiency and energy use of buildings, as well as the

supply of renewable energy for transport, electricity and heating and cooling are of major importance to achieve the objectives of sustainable economic growth and improving the urban environment.

### *Past and current initiatives*

The Commission's New energy strategy Package adopted in January 2007, recognises the role of urban areas in the increasing demand for energy and rising oil prices, and the necessity for investment in environmental technologies to ensure sustainable economic growth, decrease environmental impacts and stimulate innovation and job creation.

The Commission's [Energy Efficiency Action Plan](#)<sup>47</sup> proposes that a greater use of available and economically viable energy-efficient technologies and techniques should reduce the use of primary energy by 20%. Greater energy savings in buildings (in particular in the new Member States, including in the multi-family and social housing sectors), as well as reducing our overall energy requirements and improving the security of our supply, also reduces CO2 emissions and makes homes and workplaces more comfortable. It promotes social inclusion by raising the living standard of many people in the EU and has considerable job-creating potential. The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive<sup>48</sup> (EPBD), the Directive on the promotion of cogeneration<sup>49</sup> (CHP) and the Energy Services Directive<sup>50</sup> promote efficient heating installations in urban areas due to the heavy heat load, leading to lower emissions of particulate matter.

Renewable energy sources may be used to provide transport fuels, as well as electricity and heating (or cooling) for buildings. The Commission has proposed and the European Council endorsed a set of binding targets; like 20% of renewable energy by 2020 and a target of a 10% share of biofuels in transport by 2020. A higher use of renewable energy sources in heating and cooling and in the supply of electricity will lead to lower emissions in urban areas, improving the urban environment and people's health as well as the possibility of creating local employment.

In the Road Map on renewable energy sources that the Commission adopted on 10 January 2007 it is underlined the role played by regional and local authorities.

## **6.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013**

### *6.2.1. Seventh Framework Programme for Research, technological development and demonstration activities (FP7)*

The FP7 specific programme "Cooperation" supports transnational cooperation in defined areas. It supports demonstration projects to promote energy efficiency

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<sup>47</sup> COM (2006) 545.

<sup>48</sup> Directive 2002/91/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the energy performance of buildings. OJ L 1/65 of 4.1.2003.

<sup>49</sup> Directive 2004/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of cogeneration based on a useful heat demand in the internal energy market and amending Directive 92/42/EEC. OJ L 52/50 of 21.2.2004.

<sup>50</sup> Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy end-use efficiency and repealing Council Directive 93/76/EEC. OJ L 114/64 of 27.4.2006.

and use of renewable energy sources (RES) through the "Energy" research theme. For general information on the FP7, see chapter 4.

#### 1.- "Energy" research theme

Specific areas to be considered for funding include: research on renewable energy technology (for electricity generation, heating and cooling and transport fuel) and low CO<sub>2</sub> emitting power generation (CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage and clean coal technologies) as well as smart energy networks, energy efficiency technologies, development models to assess the main economic and social issues related to energy technologies, hydrogen and fuel cells. The CONCERTO initiative will be pursued under the "Energy" research theme (see below).

##### *a) Eligible beneficiaries*

Consortia including public and private partners such as local authority, company, university, research centre, organisation or individual.

##### *b) Further information*

Contact point: [TREN-UNIT-D1@ec.europa.eu](mailto:TREN-UNIT-D1@ec.europa.eu)

For the relevant documents (work programme, call for proposals) and updated information on the FP7, see the website: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

#### 2.- CONCERTO initiative

The CONCERTO initiative is financed through the "Energy" research theme. It aims to demonstrate the economic environmental and social benefits of integrating renewable energy sources together with energy efficiency techniques through a sustainable energy-management system operated on a community level. The CONCERTO initiative provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences between all the CONCERTO demonstration communities, and other cities that are committed to introducing similar strategies. Communities participating will benefit from the shared expertise of Europe's most advanced communities, active in the field of energy sustainability.

##### *a) Eligible actions*

Projects expected to be supported will have to articulate integration of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, in order to achieve a significant increase of the share of renewable energy sources supply (green electricity, heating/cooling etc.) simultaneously with the reduction of energy demand and overall management of energy. Types of actions envisaged include:

- Eco-buildings integrating onsite renewable energy sources with energy-efficient building design and management,
- Poly-generation, combined heat and power (cogeneration) and district heating (ideally using bio-mass),
- Intelligent management of demand
- Local distribution grids and distributed generation

- Actions to tackle the issue of efficient energy storage in order to cover variability of renewable energy sources supply.

CONCERTO projects strive not only to conduct research, but most importantly to further develop and implement ways of boosting, encouraging and increasing the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures and to make these visible to the wide European audience.

*b) Eligible beneficiaries*

Since the implementation of a CONCERTO project requires strong commitments from the local authorities, local market actors and decision-makers, evidence of such commitments should be included in the projects. Apart from the above, CONCERTO consortia typically include: utilities, energy technology/service providers, building companies/housing associations, socio-economists for the relevant studies, energy users, associated communities.

*c) Budget*

For the previous periods, EUR 141 million support to date (58 for CONCERTO 1 and 83 for CONCERTO 2 for which the contracts are still under preparation).

*d) Further information*

For the relevant documents (work programme and call for proposals) and updated information (such as contact points) on the Concerto Initiative, consult the website: <http://www.concertoplus.eu/>

### 6.2.2. *Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)*

The IEE Programme is financed under the [Competitiveness and Innovation Programme](#) (CIP),<sup>51</sup> as the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, the ICT Policy Support Programme. The CIP will provide funding for actions to enhance competitiveness and innovation, complementing the research-oriented activities promoted by the FP7. The IEE Programme is a non-technological programme that aims at removing market barriers to the increased use of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

*a) Management*

The IEE is managed by the Intelligent Energy Executive Agency (IEEA) that launches annual calls for proposals.

*b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

The IEE Programme is structured in three specific fields, including:

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<sup>51</sup> Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013), OJ L 310/15 of 9.11.2006.

- The Altener sub-programme focusing exclusively on the promotion of renewable energy sources and
- the SAVE sub-programme, the principal focus of the Community's non-technological action on energy efficiency, including of buildings and social housing.

Projects in 2007 will address energy issues faced notably in buildings, social housing and energy aspects of transport, heat and electricity production.

*c) Eligible actions*

The IEE programme does not fund technical research projects. It acts rather as a catalyst for socio-economic, market, regulatory, policy and institutional changes (e.g. international transfer of experience, promotion of best practices, education and training, institutional capacity building, dissemination of projects, market replication projects, information dissemination, creation of new standards and norms, etc.).

Innovatory techniques, processes or products, which have already been technically demonstrated with success but have not yet penetrated the market, will also be supported from 2008.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

Any organisations, such as public and private partners (local agencies, transport operators, cities, research institutes, NGOs...). A minimum of three partners should participate with objectives that have a European-wide impact.

*e) Budget*

The budget for the CIP is EUR 3 621 300 000, 20% will be allocated to the IEE Programme.

*f) Further information*

For the relevant documents (work programme, calls for proposals, user manual), new projects in the pipeline for 2007 and updated information on the IEE Programme, consult the website:

[http://www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index\\_en.html](http://www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html)

### **6.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

**The CONCERTO Forum**, which is under preparation, will provide an annual meeting platform for the exchange of political, technical and operational experiences. EU local energy action – Good practices 2005:

<http://www.managenergy.net/download/gp2005.pdf>

**The Buildings Platform** is an information service for helping the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) by setting up mechanisms for the transfer of information between all stakeholders and by coordinating the activities of the various stakeholders via the platform services: <http://www.buildingsplatform.org/>

**Energy Performance of Buildings Concerted Action** is a network of Member States which implement the EPBD, including Bulgaria, Norway and Romania: <http://www.epbd-ca.org/>

**Working group on standardisation** related to EPBD, organised by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN). The aim is to develop standards by early 2007. The network is made up of public authorities, research institutes, universities as well as manufacturers: [www.cen.eu](http://www.cen.eu)

**Sustainable Energy Europe 2005-2008** is a public awareness-raising initiative in the framework of the Intelligent Energy Europe programme among individuals and organisations, private companies and public authorities, professional and energy agencies, industry associations and NGOs across Europe: [www.sustenergy.org](http://www.sustenergy.org)

**ManagEnergy Initiative** aims to support the work of actors working on energy efficiency and renewable energies at the local and regional level by providing training workshops, case studies, good practice, a partner search system with some 2700 organisations, including 350 energy agencies, which can provide valuable expertise and partnerships on energy activities at local and regional levels: [www.managenergy.net](http://www.managenergy.net)

The **GreenLight Programme** is a voluntary pollution prevention initiative encouraging non-residential electricity consumers (public and private) to commit towards the European Commission to install energy-efficient lighting technologies in their facilities: <http://www.eu-greenlight.org/>

#### 6.4. Information sources

##### *Websites*

DG TREN on Energy: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/index_en.htm)

Full video coverage of major European energy interviews, events and programme information days is available on the Commission ManagEnergy Broadcast Portal: [http://www.managenergy.tv/me\\_portal/mst/12/](http://www.managenergy.tv/me_portal/mst/12/)

##### *Publications*

Leaflet Intelligent Energy Europe:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/library/doc/leaflet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/library/doc/leaflet_en.pdf)

Brochure on electricity from renewable energy sources:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/publications/doc/2004\\_brochure\\_green\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/publications/doc/2004_brochure_green_en.pdf)

Brochure on promoting biofuels in Europe:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/publications/doc/2004\\_brochure\\_biofuels\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/publications/doc/2004_brochure_biofuels_en.pdf)

Concerto brochure:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/fp6\\_projects/doc/concerto/brochure/concerto\\_brochure.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/fp6_projects/doc/concerto/brochure/concerto_brochure.pdf)

## 7. EU POLICIES ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR TRANSPORT

### 7.1. EU political background related to urban issues

Modern society depends heavily on mobility as it provides personal freedom and access to services for business and leisure. The demand for transport services has grown steadily for both passengers and goods in the last decades, and it is predicted that this demand will continue to grow rapidly in the future. The rising volumes of traffic, the status of the infrastructure and the limited resources in energy make the problems caused by road transport even worse, including congestion of the urban areas, harmful effects on the environment and public health, waste of energy and above all, accidents which cause fatalities, injuries and material damage.

On the other hand, the rapid and growing development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) allows the creation of more efficient and personalised services, fitting more effectively the new needs and habits.

ICT provide a set of tools that can help to solve transport-related problems. ICT-based systems provide new, intelligent solutions which are beneficial to transport authorities, traffic management centres, drivers and all categories of transport users.

#### *Past and current initiatives*

In the [Communication on the intelligent car initiative "Raising awareness of ICT for smarter, safer and cleaner vehicles"](#),<sup>52</sup> the Commission proposed several actions to tackle the problems caused by road transport. The communication highlighted the need for a comprehensive European approach to ensure interoperability and the harmonisation of technical solutions throughout the Union. In addition to standardisation and in line with the ongoing work on co-operative systems, public authorities, cities and regions have a particular role in the implementation of the appropriate infrastructures, including intelligent features, and putting forward targeted actions enabling the wider deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems.

The Commission's [i2010 initiative](#),<sup>53</sup> and specifically its third pillar "Inclusive European Information Society", was launched to promote economic growth and jobs in a manner that is consistent with sustainable development and that prioritises public services and quality of life. To raise the visibility of the potential of ICT to the quality of life, the Commission launched flagship ICT initiatives on key social challenges. One of the three priorities is the "Intelligent Car" flagship initiative on safe and clean transport, addressing the problems caused by increased road use. It consists of three "parts":

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<sup>52</sup> COM(2006) 59 final.

<sup>53</sup> Communication of the Commission "i2010 – A European Information Society for growth and employment", COM(2005) 229 final.

Also see the website on I2010 and Digital Divide that covers issues related to the regional dimension of the information society:

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/eeurope/i2010/digital\\_divide/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/i2010/digital_divide/index_en.htm)

- Policy actions such as the eSafety forum: the purpose is to gather all stakeholders (Industry, national and local authorities, universities and laboratories, etc.) around specific thematic and concrete actions
- Research actions through Framework Programmes: the development of new strategies is linked to research, demonstration and implementation of advanced technologies.
- Awareness-raising actions (specific events, campaigns, publicity, etc.): the changes happen only when things are known. To see the benefits of the new technologies they have to be adopted by the population. This third part of the initiative aims at disseminating the information.

## 7.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013

### *7.2.1. Seventh Framework Programme for Research, technological development and demonstration activities (FP7)*

The FP7 specific programme "Cooperation" aims to support transnational cooperation between relevant stakeholders on defined areas, including related urban areas such as ICT. For general information on the FP7, see chapter 4 "The European Research and Development Policy".

Projects on ICT for transport may be financed under the priority ICT meeting societal challenges for mobility and environment within the ["Information and Communication Technologies"](#) research theme.

The following themes have been identified for call for proposals in 2007 and in 2008:

- Intelligent Vehicle Systems, such as Advanced Driver Assistance Systems, Collision Mitigation and Avoidance, etc.;
- Mobility Services for people and goods, including traveller information systems, covering all modes of transport and also public transport (timetables, parking, fee collection for public transport and parking etc.);
- Co-operative systems (based on vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication) to improve traffic efficiency and safety. It is highly relevant to the urban environment. Participation of cities, public authorities and infrastructure owners is encouraged;
- Field operational tests to collect real traffic data about the impact of Intelligent Vehicle Systems, mainly in terms of safety but also of traffic efficiency.

#### *a) Eligible beneficiaries*

Cities and regions suffering from congestion, pollution and traffic accidents are welcome to take part in these research projects and tests, to contribute to the development of user-friendlier urban transport and to provide the benefits of such systems to the citizens. Participants must form a consortium.

*b) Further information*

Contact point: [INFSO-G4@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFSO-G4@ec.europa.eu)

For the relevant documents (annual work programme, calls for proposals, etc.) and updated information on the ICT part of the FP7, consult the Website: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

*7.2.2. ICT Policy Support Programme*

The ICT Policy Support Programme is financed under the [Competitiveness and Innovation Programme](#) (CIP),<sup>54</sup> as the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme and the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. The CIP provides funding for actions to enhance competitiveness and innovation, complementing the research-oriented activities promoted by the FP7.

The ICT policy support programme aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and business and in particular SMEs. The approach is based on leveraging innovation in response to growing societal demands.

*a) Management*

The ICT Policy Support Programme is managed by the European Commission (Information Society and Media DG) that launches call for proposals.

*b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

In the 2007 call for proposals, Objective 4.3: "Intelligent Cars Awareness Action" aims at accelerating the take-up and best use of new ICT-based Intelligent Vehicle Systems for safer, more efficient and more environmentally friendly transport and mobility services. This will support the i2010 Intelligent Car initiative<sup>55</sup>.

*c) Eligible actions*

In this first call, in 2007, it is intended to support one thematic network that will bring together the relevant stakeholders in Europe, including but not limited to Member States at national, regional and city level, automotive and telecommunications industries, research institutes, service providers, road authorities and operators, driving schools and the insurance sector. The network will interface with all interested Commission departments.

In future calls other instruments will be requested, like Pilot A and/or B actions<sup>56</sup>.

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<sup>54</sup> Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013).

<sup>55</sup> Commission Communication on the Intelligent Car Initiative: "Raising Awareness of ICT for Smarter, Safer and Cleaner Vehicles"

<sup>56</sup> Website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/ict\\_psp/about/implementation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/about/implementation/index_en.htm)

Activities will include the exchange of best practice in domains such as public procurement (including pre-commercial procurement), user awareness actions and information campaigns, and methods for impact assessment. The Network should also help establish durable cooperation between groups of stake holders (e.g. road operators). It should also bring together experts in clean and efficient mobility, in order to provide a road-map on the use of ICT for improving energy efficiency in transport.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

Private and public entities at local and regional level can participate in calls for proposals issued under the programme.

*e) Budget*

The planned budget for the whole ICT Policy Support Programme is EUR 728 million. The budget allocated to the thematic network as described in 7.2.2.c is comprised between 300 000 and 500 000 Euros.

*f) Further information*

Contact point: [INFSO-G4@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFSO-G4@ec.europa.eu)

### **7.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

The **eSafety Forum** is a joint platform involving all the road safety stakeholders, including cities and regions. It aims to promote and support the development, deployment and use of intelligent integrated road safety systems: [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/esafety/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/esafety/index_en.htm)

Member States, regional and local authorities and the Commission will explore together innovative methods of using coordinated pre-commercial public procurement (e.g. for establishing the conditions for technical interoperability and sustainable exploitation of ICT products and services for the ageing society). Local and regional authorities can have a prominent role in the use of this tool through their standard public procurement activities.

### **7.4. Information sources**

For all relevant information on this chapter, contact: [INFSO-G4@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INFSO-G4@ec.europa.eu)

*Website*

The eSafety website provides information as well as links to the existing projects and other activities:

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/programmes/esafety/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/programmes/esafety/index_en.htm)

Information Society and Media DG and ICT research in FP7:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/research/eu\\_research/fp7\\_ist/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/research/eu_research/fp7_ist/index_en.htm)

## 8. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

### 8.1. EU political background related to urban issues

In the context of an ageing and increasingly diversified society, especially in urban areas, Europe is fostering policies and initiatives favouring the broadest social participation and inclusion. Information society services have a high potential for social and economic inclusion, especially if coupled with the activation of the local and urban dimensions.

#### Past and current initiatives

The 2005 Communication from the Commission "[i2010, a European Information Society for growth and employment](#)"<sup>57</sup> defines as one of its three objectives “an Information Society that is inclusive, provides high quality public services and promotes quality of life”. This may be achieved notably through the promotion of eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth services.

In the [eGovernment i2010 Action Plan](#)<sup>58</sup> and the Manchester Ministerial Declaration<sup>59</sup>, the Commission and the Member States commit themselves to focusing on a limited number of major objectives: services for all citizens, citizen participation in democratic decision-making, high impact flagship services for citizens and businesses, efficiency and effectiveness, and key enablers such as electronic identification for public services.

As reflected in the i2010 initiative and in the Riga Ministerial Declaration on "ICT for an Inclusive Society", ICT has also a huge potential for social inclusion. The Riga Ministerial Declaration set out a number of targets to enhance social inclusion in the information society in terms of internet usage for groups at risk of exclusion, such as older people and people with disabilities; increased broadband coverage; accessibility of all public websites; actions in the field of digital literacy and skills; recommendations on accessibility standards and common approaches to be used in public procurement; the possibility of legislative measures in the field of e-Accessibility.

Policies and activities for [e-Health](#)<sup>60</sup> aim at promoting quality of life for citizens and patients, independent living, and mobility, and foster the development of ICT systems, tools and services for better access to care, better safety and quality of care, and increased efficiency in the delivery of care.

The 2007 Communication from the Commission "Ageing Well in the Information Society" sets out a European Action Plan to respond to the needs of Europe's growing ageing population. This Action Plan is accompanied by a joint European research programme in ICT targeted at improving the life of older people at

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<sup>57</sup> COM(2005) 229 final.

Also see the website on I2010 and Digital Divide that covers issues related to the regional dimension of the information society:

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/eeurope/i2010/digital\\_divide/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/i2010/digital_divide/index_en.htm)

<sup>58</sup> COM(2006) 173 final.

<sup>59</sup> <http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/egov2005conference/documents/proceedings/pdf/051124declaration.pdf>

<sup>60</sup> eHealth Action Plan, COM (2004) 356.

home, in the workplace and in society in general. These EU initiatives will contribute to allowing older Europeans to stay active for longer and live independently. Together they promise a triple win for Europe: improved quality of life and social participation for older people in Europe, new business opportunities for Europe's industries and more efficient and more personalised health and social services.

In all areas of eInclusion, eHealth and eGovernment, the Commission is supported by the Member States in the exchange of good practices and alignment of policies through specific groups of experts (i2010 Sub-Groups) gathering Member State representatives.

In these areas, Member States and regional authorities should use the existing Public Procurement Directives to help stimulate market understanding and demand. They should also actively encourage the use of current Electronic Accessibility standards (eAccessibility) in appropriate public procurement requirements and specifications to make ICT services friendly to disadvantaged categories (e.g. people with disabilities or the ageing population).

#### *Forthcoming initiatives*

In its efforts to establish coherent strategies towards inclusion, Information Society and Media DG is launching:

- Substantial policy actions in the field of e-Inclusion preparing for the 2008 e-Inclusion initiative and show-casing practical results of inclusion (including at the local and urban level) in the information society.
- Policy activities to ensure interoperability of e-Health systems to support continuity of care delivery (such as hospital-primary-home care and cross-border care).
- A new policy initiative entitled "ICT for Sustainable Growth" which aims to issue an action plan on ICT for environmental sustainability and growth, encompassing policy, research and awareness-raising activities in three domains: building an integrated European information space for environmental monitoring; enabling more effective management of emergencies and disasters; and improving energy efficiency.

## **8.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013**

### *8.2.1. Seventh Framework Programme for Research, technological development and demonstration activities (FP7)*

The FP7 specific programme "Cooperation" aims to support transnational cooperation between relevant stakeholders in defined areas, including related urban areas such as ICT. For more general information on the FP7, see chapter 4.

Projects on ICT for an inclusive society may be financed under the priority "ICT meeting societal challenges" within the "Information and Communication Technologies" research theme. It concerns more particularly the following areas:

- e-Health: a specific challenge addressing RTD activities on ICT for sustainable and personalised healthcare, illness prevention and safety of care. A

showcasing of achievements in the field of research for e-Health in the area of personal health systems. A number of activities are also aimed at informing appropriate constituencies on research possibilities in the first call for proposals of the Seventh Research Framework Programme. In this regard, a conference took place in Brussels on 12 and 13 February 2007.

- **e-Inclusion:** a specific challenge addressing RTD activities on ICT for Ageing and Inclusion. ICT offers important means to address the problems associated with the ageing population such as the associated rise in the number of people with high disability rates,<sup>61</sup> fewer family carers, and a smaller productive workforce. One focus area will be RTD to mainstream and radically improve the accessibility and usability of new ICT solutions. Another focus area will be RTD on ICT-based solutions to help offset the impact of the ageing population, significantly prolonging independent living and increasing active participation in the economy and in society.
- **Ambient Assisted Living:**<sup>62</sup> EU level activities under the social inclusion challenge will be complemented by a major initiative, bringing together the research programmes of Member States with support from FP7 for creation of new large-scale trans-national collaboration on applied RTD for “Ambient Assisted Living”. This initiative will issue calls for proposals and provide funding for applied research projects involving different European partners, including cities and other actors of urban development in the field of ICT for independent living and well-being. The total budget over the period of 2007-2013 is EUR 600 million.
- **Sustainable Growth:** a specific objective addressing RTD activities on ICT for Environmental Management and Energy Efficiency. Its aims are: to create an integrated environmental information space in which institutions, service providers and citizens access and share available information, thus enhancing capacity to assess population exposure and health risks, to alert targeted groups and to organise efficient response; and to improve energy efficiency via ICT-enabled solutions in support of Europe's objective to save 20% of energy consumption by 2020, to enable future buildings to become energy-neutral and to reduce personal energy usage.

a) *Eligible beneficiaries*

Research on innovative ICTs for health, ageing and inclusion will require a multi-disciplinary and user-centred approach combining advanced technology research and user acceptance. In these two themes, research and innovation activities require large user involvement at local level. The role of intermediaries (e.g. social care services, local authorities, regional health authorities) is a key asset for the success of this type of research directed to the final user.

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<sup>61</sup> Age and disability are strongly correlated: 15% of the EU population has a disability; 70% of them will be over 60 by 2020.

<sup>62</sup> Website: <http://www.aal169.org/>

*b) Further information*

Contact points and websites for the relevant documents (annual work programme, calls for proposals, etc.) and updated information on the programme:

For e-Inclusion: [info-h3@ec.europa.eu](mailto:info-h3@ec.europa.eu)

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/einclusion](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/einclusion)

For e-Health: [info-h1@ec.europa.eu](mailto:info-h1@ec.europa.eu)

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/qualif/health/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/qualif/health/index_en.htm)

See also the Website: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

*8.2.2. ICT Policy Support Programme*

- The ICT Policy Support Programme is financed under the [Competitiveness and Innovation Programme](#) (CIP),<sup>63</sup> as the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme and the Energy Intelligent Europe Programme. The CIP will provide funding for actions to enhance competitiveness and innovation, complementing the research-oriented activities promoted by the FP7.
- The ICT policy support programme aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and business and in particular SMEs. The approach is based on leveraging innovation in response to growing societal demands. The ICT Policy Support Programme will support actions to demonstrate practical benefits of ICT for social inclusion.

*a) Management*

The ICT Policy Support Programme is managed by the European Commission (Information Society and Media DG) that launches calls for proposals.

*b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

The main strands for the CIP actions are on the issues of:

- ICT for Ageing, independent living; and accessibility of ICT;
- eGovernment services;
- eHealth

*c) Eligible actions*

It covers the launch of:

- Pilot projects for demonstration purposes and benchmarking activities favouring uptake of innovative services and technologies,

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<sup>63</sup> Decision n° 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013). [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l\\_310/l\\_31020061109en00150040.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_310/l_31020061109en00150040.pdf)

- Measures aiming at fostering replication of successful projects,
- Exploratory studies (e.g. on social capital),
- Activities for the identification and the exchange of good practices between relevant stakeholders,
- Awareness campaigns.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

Private and public entities at local and regional level (e.g. city councils, social and health care providers) can participate in calls for proposals issued under the programme. The local and urban involvement is particularly relevant to demonstrate practical benefits deriving from these innovative technologies, to favour their uptake among different societal groups, and to enable the replication of successful experiences.

*e) Budget*

The planned budget for the whole ICT Policy Support Programme is €728 million. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

*f) Further information*

Contact point: [info-c2@ec.europa.eu](mailto:info-c2@ec.europa.eu)

For the relevant documents (annual work programme, calls for proposals, etc.) and updated information on the programme, see: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

### **8.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

A good practice portal, <http://www.epractice.eu/> addresses e-Inclusion, e-Government and e-Health areas and enables users to:

- Share their real-life cases by publishing them on the site.
- Meet peers from across Europe and expand their professional networks by creating a personal profile.
- Learn from the experience of others, rate and comment on the published cases.

Best practices, networks, project and cases at local and regional level directly or indirectly linked with urban issues (e.g. urban innovation through the use of ICT, cadastre and geographic information systems, town planning, property registers etc.) can be found in this portal.

Member States, regional and local authorities and the Commission will explore together innovative methods of using coordinated pre-commercial public procurement (e.g. for establishing the conditions for technical interoperability and sustainable exploitation of ICT products and services for the ageing society). Local and regional authorities can have a prominent role in the use of this tool through their standard public procurement activities.

## 8.4. Information sources

### *Websites*

Information Society and Media DG and e-Inclusion Policy:

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/einclusion](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/einclusion)

Information Society and Media DG and ICT research in FP7:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/research/eu\\_research/fp7\\_ist/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/research/eu_research/fp7_ist/index_en.htm)

### *Publications*

European Commission - Pre-Commercial Procurement of innovation. A Missing Link in the European Innovation Cycle, March 2006:

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/research/key\\_docs/documents/procurement.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/research/key_docs/documents/procurement.pdf)

Pre-commercial procurement "Public sector needs as a driver of innovation", September 2006:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/research/priv\\_invest/pcp/documents/pre-commercial\\_procurement\\_0906.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/research/priv_invest/pcp/documents/pre-commercial_procurement_0906.pdf)

## 9. URBAN DIMENSION OF EUROPEAN POLICIES ADDRESSED TO ENTERPRISES

### 9.1. EU political background related to urban issues

The urban area is a place of intensified business activity. It is a particular mix of people working in thousands of enterprises in a variety of sectors. Their activities in a natural way complement each other creating an economic potential of a local municipality. In order to fully use this opportunity it is extremely important to create a friendly environment for business, adapted to specific groups such as young or female entrepreneurs or those from disadvantaged groups, including ethnic minorities. In particular, craft and small and medium-sized enterprises and social enterprises are a key source of jobs and a breeding ground for business ideas.<sup>64</sup> Small businesses are the main driver for innovation and employment as well as social and local integration in Europe. Urban areas are also a testimony for a cultural heritage of Europe. As such it stimulates the development of urban tourism.

#### *Past and current initiatives*

SMEs are indispensable for the delivery of stronger, lasting growth and more and better jobs. Furthermore, to revitalise the economy, Europe needs more people willing to become entrepreneurs, hence the importance of promoting entrepreneurial culture. Therefore, SME-friendly policies both at Community level and in Member States become even more important to unlocking the EU's potential. It is expected that local authorities propose new actions to improve access to finance,<sup>65</sup> to strengthen their capacity to sustain in the market, to grow and to create jobs and new ways to enhance dialogue and consultation with SME

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<sup>64</sup> Communication from the Commission: Implementing the Community Lisbon Programme: Modern SME Policy for Growth and Jobs, COM (2006) 033.

<sup>65</sup> COM (2006) 349.

stakeholders. By doing so, it clearly supports the implementation of the Lisbon Integrated Guidelines<sup>66</sup> and the Community Lisbon Programme.<sup>67</sup>

Support to SMEs will be provided by the Community programmes for enterprise, i.e. the Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme (CIP). However, as SME policy is often translated by initiatives conceived and delivered at local and regional levels, other important sources of funding must be used, such as funds for cohesion policy. Structural funds are playing a key role in promoting entrepreneurship and skills and improving SMEs growth potential, e.g. by supporting the technological development of SMEs, providing business support services, and strengthening SME cooperation. Structural funds have provided around EUR 21 billion to SMEs in the period 2000-2006 and the orientations suggested in the Strategic Guidelines for cohesion reinforce this commitment.<sup>68</sup>

City tourism is regarded as the fastest growing sector in Europe and a new phenomenon which increasingly contributes to local and regional economies. Addressing the varied challenges of tourism requires advancing knowledge and practice about how municipal governments and other stakeholders can work together in sustainable tourism development to promote participatory governance and ensure long-term local development.

## **9.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013: Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme**

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme is financed under the [Competitiveness and Innovation Programme](#) (CIP),<sup>69</sup> as the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme and the ICT Policy Support Programme. The CIP provides funding for actions to enhance competitiveness and innovation, complementing the research-oriented activities promoted by the FP7. Regarding SMEs, the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme brings together activities that were previously carried out under the Multiannual Programme for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (MAP), the environmental technologies part of the LIFE-Environment programme, and innovation activities that were previously implemented through framework programmes for research, technological development and demonstration, as well as activities under the Intelligent Energy Europe programme and a number of activities in support of ICT policy.

### *a) Management*

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme is run by the Enterprise and Industry DG, as well as the Economic and Financial Affairs DG and the Directorate-General for the Environment. A joint annual work programme is adopted and calls for proposals are launched. The EIP Financial Instruments, which are managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF) in Luxembourg, are

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<sup>66</sup> Council Recommendation 2005/601/EC on the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States.

<sup>67</sup> COM(2005) 330.

<sup>68</sup> See the chapter in Part 1 on cohesion policy.

<sup>69</sup> Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013).

available via financial intermediaries such as banks and venture capital funds in the different Member States and participating countries.

*b) Eligible actions*

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme aims to help SMEs innovate by:

- providing access to finance through sharing risks and reward with private equity investors and providing counter or co-guarantees to national guarantee schemes,
- encouraging services in support of business and innovation,
- supporting innovation and eco-innovation pilot and market replication projects,
- supporting policy analyses, development, coordination and twinning.

*c) Eligible beneficiaries*

Between 2007 and 2013, the CIP will give support to some 350,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to invest in all forms of innovation and growth.

*d) Budget*

A budget of EUR 3.6 billion is allocated for the period 2007-2013. There is no financial allocation for urban projects.

*e) Further information*

Contact: [ENTR-CIP@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ENTR-CIP@ec.europa.eu)

For the relevant documents and other updated information on the Programme, see:

[http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm)

### **9.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

Innovation Relay Centres: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/networks/index.htm> or <http://www.innovationrelay.net>

The European Charter for Small Enterprises Website provides a report on 2006 good practice selection:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/charter/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/charter/index_en.htm)

"Good practices in the promotion of female entrepreneurship, examples from Europe and other OECD countries":

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/craft/craft-women/documents/study-female-entrepreneurship-en.pdf>

## 9.4. Information sources

### *Websites*

Network of Euro Info Centres:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/networks/eic/eic.html>

Commission's actions to support entrepreneurship and SME policy:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/index_en.htm)

Practical information on running a business in the EU:

<http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/nav/en/business/home.html>

For more information on access to finance:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/financing/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/financing/index_en.htm)

For good examples of policies supporting women's enterprises:

<http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/craft/craft-women/women-dgentr-activities.htm>

The CIP: [http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm)

For more information on funding opportunities and other information on EU policies for SMEs:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/sme\\_envoy/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/sme_envoy/index.htm)

For European Investment Bank activity in favour of SMEs:

<http://www.eib.org/site/index.asp?designation=sme>

For urban tourism: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/services/tourism/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/services/tourism/index_en.htm)

### *Publications*

"A guide to SME policy", Enterprise and Industry DG, June 2006:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/docs/facts\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/docs/facts_en.pdf)

Cordis website: <http://cordis.europa.eu/innovation-policy/studies/>

"Feasibility and preparatory study regarding a Multi-stakeholder European Targeted Action for Sustainable Tourism & Transport", Enterprise and Industry DG, October 2004:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/services/tourism/doc/studies/towards\\_quality\\_tourism\\_rural\\_urban\\_coastal/iqm\\_urban\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/services/tourism/doc/studies/towards_quality_tourism_rural_urban_coastal/iqm_urban_en.pdf)

"Towards Quality Urban Tourism: Integrated quality management (IQM) of urban

tourist destinations", Enterprise and Industry DG, 2000:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/library/lib-tourism/iqm-summary/urban\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/library/lib-tourism/iqm-summary/urban_en.pdf)

Light Rail and Metro Systems in Europe, the European Rail Research Advisory Council, 2004: <http://www.errac.org/docs/LRailandMetroinEU-042004.pdf>

## **10. URBAN DIMENSION OF THE EU CULTURE POLICY**

### **10.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

The European cities, which bring together a large number of cultural amenities (museums, libraries, theatres, art centres, artists' studios and centres in which to learn and practise art and culture, etc.) are important places for artistic creation and the dissemination of cultural works and productions. The presence of these cultural institutions is one of the prime factors for the development of tourism. A proactive cultural supply policy provides a city with an edge as a cultural tourism venue, which is a driving force for the economic development of an area.

The city is also a multicultural area par excellence. The public places, public transport, schools, universities, but also work are all meeting places for a diversified population of different nationalities, religions and social backgrounds.

The growth and attractiveness of the cities requires their cultural and artistic fabric to be maintained and even strengthened, as well as the presence of creative industries, which directly and indirectly are major sources of jobs with high added value. But it is above all the "creative communities" gathering around these cultural industries, the active participants in information and communication technologies, research and finance, which allow the emergence of true centres for innovation and competitiveness.

The attractiveness of the cities also depends on the improvement of the architectural quality, a key factor for social cohesion, especially in urban areas in crisis, as it improves the quality of life for the inhabitants. Rehabilitation of the urban environment and the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage are therefore vital components of integrated urban strategies.

### **10.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013**

#### *10.2.1. Culture Programme*

The [Culture Programme](#)<sup>70</sup> (2007-2013) provides considerable support for the actions taking place in cities or promoted by municipalities.

This programme aims to enhance the the idea of a "European cultural area" and based on a common cultural heritage through the development of cultural cooperation between the artists, cultural players and cultural institutions of the countries taking part in the programme, with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship. The following specific objectives are pursued:

- to promote the transnational mobility of cultural players;
- to encourage the transnational circulation of works and artistic and cultural products;
- to encourage intercultural dialogue.

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<sup>70</sup> Decision No 1855/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006

*a) Management*

The European Commission (Directorate-General for Education and Culture) is responsible for the management of the Culture Programme, in association with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

*b) Thematic priorities relating to urban issues*

The Culture Programme goes beyond the sectoral approach adopted in the previous generations of cultural programmes and aims for an integrated approach to promote multidisciplinary cooperation projects in all fields of the heritage and artistic creation which have an impact on urban issues.

*c) Eligible actions*

This programme supports in particular cooperation projects between actors in the cultural sector, special actions (including “European Capitals of Culture”), the operation of bodies active at European level in the field of culture, and studies.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

This programme is open to participation by all cultural actors. Cities are encouraged to participate.

*e) Budget*

A budget of EUR 400 million is available for 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

#### *10.2.2. European Capitals of Culture*

The «European Capitals of Culture» initiative receives support under the Culture Programme. It aims to enhance the richness and diversity of European cultures and their common characteristics, to enhance the European citizens’ knowledge of one another and to promote the awareness of belonging to the same «European» community. Since 1985, more than thirty cities have been designated European Capitals of Culture.

A report (see publications under point 10.3.b) shows that the title may act as a catalyst in the cultural development and transformation of a city. In general, the immediate socio-economic repercussions of the event are tourism-related, on the one hand, and directly related to the additional investments and expenditure made, on the other. Several cities awarded the title have developed a true urban regeneration strategy based on culture.

*a) Selection procedure*

Essen, Pécs and Istanbul will be European Capitals of Culture in 2010.

The cities designated for the 2011 title will be selected in 2007.<sup>71</sup> Each year from 2011, two cities located in two Member States of the European Union will hold the title. A chronological list of the order in which the 27 Member States of the European Union are entitled to host the event has been adopted. The candidate cities for the title of Capital must submit a programme of cultural events for the year in question. This programme is assessed by an international panel on the basis of a certain number of criteria which emphasise the European dimension of the event, as well as its attractiveness, visibility and the participation of the inhabitants. The event must also demonstrate long-term effects. The cities selected are designated by the Council of Ministers of the European Union.

The selection process and the criteria are set out in the “Application Guide” for cities wishing to apply for the title of European Capital of Culture, available from: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/ecocs/cap\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/ecocs/cap_en.html)

*b) Budget*

The Community contribution to the event will amount to EUR 1.5 million per Capital from 2007.

*c) Further information*

For the relevant documents (calls for proposals, guide for candidates) and any other information on the Culture Programme, including the «European Capitals of Culture» initiative, contact: [Eac-Culture@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Eac-Culture@ec.europa.eu)

National Culture contact points:

[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/culture2007/contacts/national\\_pts\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/culture2007/contacts/national_pts_en.html)

Internet site: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index_en.html)

*10.2.3. European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008)*

The [European Year of Intercultural Dialogue](#) (2008)<sup>72</sup> aims to raise awareness, in particular among young people, of the need to develop intercultural dialogue as the most relevant process to address and profit from an increasingly multicultural environment in European societies.

*a) Management*

Each Member State is to appoint a national coordination body, or an equivalent administrative body, responsible for organising that State's participation in the European Year 2008. The European Commission launches two calls for proposals.

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<sup>71</sup> Decision No 1622/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006, OJ L 304/1 of 3 November 2006.

<sup>72</sup> Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008), OJ L 412/44 of 30.12.2006. It runs from 1 January 2007 (preparatory year) to 31 December 2008.

*b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

Culture, education, youth, sport and citizenship are the main implementation fields.

The Year 2008 is to focus on youth and involve as many individuals as possible. The challenge consists in introducing the dialogue where it matters most, that is to say in schools and education or training *fora*, at work but also in leisure, cultural, sports centres and civil society organisations.

*c) Eligible actions*

The European Year supports notably national initiatives with a European dimension concentrating on awareness-raising and communication aiming at promoting intercultural dialogue.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

Local authorities, notably cities, may submit a project under the European Year. They play a pivotal role for the furthering of the objectives of the Year, due to their closeness to the people and the existence in many European cities of cultural diversity at local level.

*e) Budget*

The budget for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008 is EUR 10 million.

*f) Further information*

For the relevant documents (calls for proposals, guide for applicants) and updated information on the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue (2008), contact: [Eac-Culture@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Eac-Culture@ec.europa.eu)

### **10.3. Information sources**

*Websites*

The Directorate-General for Education and Culture and the European culture policy (information on the Culture Programme and the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue - 2008): [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index_en.html)

European culture portal: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/portal/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/portal/index_en.htm)

*Publications*

Report on European cities and Capitals of Culture 1995-2004:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources\\_info/studies/capitals\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources_info/studies/capitals_en.html)

Study on the economy of culture in Europe, 2006:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources\\_info/studies/economy\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources_info/studies/economy_en.html)

## 11. EUROPEAN YOUTH POLICY

### 11.1. EU political background related to urban issues

A European policy in favour of young people must take account of the context in which they live. The White Paper "A new impetus for European youth" adopted by the Commission in November 2001<sup>73</sup> stresses the importance of the local level as the starting point for the dynamics potentially leading to commitment to Europe: "It is on the ground, where young people can see the results of their personal commitment, that active citizenship becomes a reality."

For the majority of young Europeans, this local level is the city; this is the geographical context for a large number of spheres of activity which affect young people directly or indirectly, for example: combating discrimination, European citizenship, employment, combating social exclusion, culture, environmental protection. Security in urban areas was cited as an important subject during the vast consultation preceding the preparation of the White Paper.

#### *Past and present initiatives*

Community action in favour of young people is organised around the following two axes:

- development of policy initiatives;
- management of action programmes.

The political action consists in implementing the common objectives adopted for the four priorities of the open method of coordination (OMC)<sup>74</sup> in the field of youth and in implementing the European Youth Pact.

As a follow-up to the White Paper of 2001, the OMC in the field of youth identified four priorities for action:

- participation by young people;
- information for young people;
- voluntary activities;
- greater understanding and knowledge in the field of youth.

A 2006 Commission communication<sup>75</sup> provides a follow-up to the first two priorities.

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<sup>73</sup> European Commission White Paper "A new impetus for European youth", COM(2001) 681 final.

<sup>74</sup> The OMC provides a new framework for cooperation between the Member States with a view to convergence of national policies to achieve certain common objectives.

<sup>75</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council on European policies concerning youth participation and information, follow-up to the White Paper on "A new impetus for European youth": implementing the common objectives for participation by and information for young people in view of promoting their active European citizenship, COM(2006) 417.

Through the adoption of the European Youth Pact in 2005, under the revised Lisbon strategy for competitiveness and employment, the Member States have undertaken to promote the integration of young people in professional life and society.

## **11.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013 – Youth in Action (2007-2013)**

The previous action programme in favour of young people, Youth, provided support for urban actions. It is replaced for the period 2007-2013 by the [Youth in Action programme](#).<sup>76</sup> This programme is not confined to urban themes, but does cover these issues.

The objectives of the Youth in Action programme are to promote active participation in society by young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, to develop their sense of solidarity and tolerance, to foster mutual understanding among young people, to contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and to promote political cooperation between the EU Member States in the field.

### *a) Management*

The European Commission (Education and Culture DG) is responsible for managing this programme. It adopts the Programme Guide which is equivalent to an ongoing call for proposals: there are five annual cut-off dates for decentralised project selection (selection by the national agencies) and three annual cut-off dates for the centralised selection (selection by the Executive Agency). Occasionally, more specific calls for proposals are published.

The Commission relies mainly on a network of national agencies which are responsible for the management of the decentralised actions of the programme and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, which is responsible for managing centralised actions.

### *b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

Youth in Action consists of five actions, which enable themes corresponding to the programme priorities to be dealt with in various forms of activities:

- general priorities: European citizenship, participation by young people, cultural diversity, inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities;
- additional annual priorities: European Year of Equal Opportunities for All in 2007; improvement of the health of young people, structured dialogue on social inclusion and diversity and on the intercultural dialogue in 2008. The themes proposed may cover issues associated with urban problems.
- In 2007, a specific call for proposals concerning innovative projects relates to the integration of young people with fewer opportunities living in European suburban areas.

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<sup>76</sup> Decision No 1719/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 establishing the «Youth in Action» programme for the period 2007 to 2013, OJ L 327/30 of 24.11.2006.

The five actions are the following:

- Action 1 "Youth for Europe" aims to reinforce the active commitment of young people by supporting exchanges, mobility, initiatives by individuals and their participative democracy projects;
- Action 2 "European Voluntary Service" aims to develop solidarity and tolerance, active citizenship and mutual understanding by offering the possibility of participating in non-profit-making unpaid activity to the benefit of the community in another country;
- Action 3 "Youth in the World" encourages a spirit of openness to the world by developing cooperation with the neighbouring partner countries of the enlarged EU or with other partner countries in the world;
- Action 4 "Youth Support Systems" supports in particular the development of training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations and projects encouraging innovation and quality;
- Action 5 "Support for policy cooperation" promotes cooperation in the field of youth policies and better knowledge of youth by supporting the exchange of good practices, cooperation between administrations and policy-makers, as well as structured dialogue between young people and policy-makers, by supporting activities to bring about a better knowledge of the field of youth and by supporting cooperation with international organisations.

c) *Eligible actions*

- Mobility measures, especially exchanges of young people (international groups of young people between 13 and 25 years of age meet and participate in an activity programme) and the activities of the European Voluntary Service (which offers the opportunity for young people of between 18 and 30 years of age to participate in non-profit-making unpaid activity to the benefit of a community in another country for a period of up to 12 months);
- Youth projects, and especially "Initiatives by young people" (young people of 18 to 30 years of age devise and participate in activities which develop their spirit of initiative and enterprise, as well as their creativity) and participative democracy projects (aiming to promote active participation by individuals of between 13 and 30 years of age in the life of their community at local, regional or national level);
- Operating expenses of certain structures, especially international youth NGOs, which pursue a goal of general European interest and which offer activities contributing to the participation by young people in public life and society.

d) *Eligible beneficiaries*

Organisations eligible to apply for a grant: various forms of organisations of young people – such as youth organisations, formal or informal groups of young people, public bodies involved in action for young people at local, regional or national level (including the youth departments of local authorities) or socio-educational instructors.

Youth are the final beneficiaries targeted by the programme, as participants in the activities proposed by the various types of organisations mentioned above.

For certain actions, Youth in Action is open to young people of 13 to 30 years of age, the target group of the programme being the age group from 15 to 28 years of age. The programme aims to obtain maximum participation and in particular seeks to involve young people with the fewest opportunities. Socio-educational instructors are also a target group of the programme.

*e) Budget*

A budget of EUR 885 million is available for 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

*f) Further information*

For the relevant documents (Programme Guide, calls for proposals) and any other information on the programme, contact:

Directorate-General for Education and Culture - Unit D.2 Youth Programmes:  
<mailto:EAC-youthinaction@ec.europa.eu>

Internet site: [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/yia/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/yia/index_en.html)

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency - Youth (centralised projects of the programme): <mailto:youth@ec.europa.eu>

Internet site: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/index\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm)

National agencies (decentralised programme management):  
[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/program/natage\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/program/natage_en.html)

### **11.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

2005 Compendium of the Youth projects, European levels selection:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/program/comp2005\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/program/comp2005_en.pdf)

### **11.4. Information sources**

*Websites*

Directorate-General for Education and Culture on Youth policy:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.html)

European Youth portal. This Internet site provides relevant information on Europe for young people: [http://europa.eu/youth/index.cfm?l\\_id=en](http://europa.eu/youth/index.cfm?l_id=en)

## **12. URBAN DIMENSION IN THE EU EDUCATION AND TRAINING POLICIES**

### **12.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

The problems of ghettoisation, as well as some other issues of social inclusion and education – for example problems related to school integration of pupils with a migrant background – are more important in cities than in rural areas.

Policy co-operation and programmes in the field of education and training do not have a specific focus on urban issues. Nevertheless, education and training are very relevant to urban development, and there are targeted measures in education and training which are specifically linked to the urban context. The "Education and Training 2010" work programme, which fosters co-operation among Member States through the open method of coordination, is currently focusing on early school leaving and on social inclusion through education.

There is also, for example, increasing concern about social inclusion and democratic citizenship in modern urban societies. This requires people to be informed and to actively engage themselves with the world around them.

In the fields of education and training, the European Commission can address these concerns via political cooperation with Member States and it funds specific projects via the Lifelong Learning Programme.

### **12.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013: The Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013)**

The former Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci programmes have funded a large number of projects focusing inter alia on urban-specific issues. That is pursued under the [Lifelong Learning Programme](#),<sup>77</sup> whose objectives closely link with the Union's policy priorities. The promotion and strengthening of learning opportunities for groups at risk, in particular for migrants, in relation to social and cultural knowledge, as well as the promotion of active participation for a democratic and inclusive society receive special attention.

#### *a) Management*

The European Commission (Education and Culture DG) is responsible for the management of the programme and the launch of calls for proposals.

The Commission is supported by a network of national agencies, which are in charge of managing decentralised actions of the programme, and by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

#### *b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

The Lifelong Learning Programme fosters European co-operation in the field of education and training. Successful projects aim to enhance the transnational mobility of individuals, promote bilateral and multilateral partnerships, or

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<sup>77</sup> Decision No 1720/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 establishing an action programme in the field of lifelong learning, OJ L 327/45 of 24.11.2006.

improve quality in education and training systems through multilateral projects encouraging innovation, for example. The Lifelong Learning Programme is built on four pillars:

- 1. The **Comenius programme** addresses the teaching and learning needs of all those in pre-school and school education up to the level of the end of upper secondary education, and the institutions and organisations providing such education;
- 2. The **Erasmus programme** addresses the teaching and learning needs of all those in formal higher education, including transnational student placements in enterprise, and the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training;
- 3. The **Leonardo da Vinci** programme addresses the teaching and learning needs of all those in vocational education and training, including placement in enterprise of persons other than students, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training;
- 4. The **Grundtvig programme** addresses the teaching and learning needs of those in all forms of adult education, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education.

These four pillars are joined by a '**transversal programme**', which pursues key activities also relevant for urban communities, as education and training are crucial in urban policy: promotion of language learning; development of innovative ICT-based content, services, pedagogies and practice for lifelong learning; dissemination and exploitation of results of actions supported under the Lifelong Learning Programme and previous related programmes, and exchange of good practice.

*c) Eligible actions*

The main eligible actions supported by the programme are:

- mobility of individuals in lifelong learning;
- partnerships between schools and training centres;
- multilateral "pilot" projects;
- networks (for example networks of schools in urban environments);
- observation and analysis of policies and systems, as well as surveys, statistics, analyses and indicators;
- operating grants to some key institutions.

The urban dimension can be a specific topic in all these actions.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

Depending on the type of action and on the sub-programme, the programme is opened to persons and bodies responsible for systems and policies concerning any aspect of lifelong learning at local, regional and national level; associations working in the field of lifelong learning, pupils, students, trainees and adult learners, etc.

It is addressed to specific target groups like "early school leavers, low-skilled young people, older workers and certain groups of immigrants and ethnic minorities" in urban environments.

*e) Budget*

The overall programme budget will be EUR 6 970 million for the total period 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

*f) Further information*

For the relevant documents (work programme, calls for proposals, users' manual), and updated information on the programme, see:

Contact at the European Commission: Education and Culture DG – Unit B1  
Coordination of Lifelong Learning Programme: Tel.: +32 (0)2 2993926

Contact at the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency:  
E-mail: [eacea-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eacea-info@ec.europa.eu)

Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/programmes\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/programmes_en.html)

### **12.3. Information sources**

*Websites*

Education and Culture DG on Education:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/education/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.html)

Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency:  
<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index.htm>

*Publications*

Study on Access to Education and Training, December 2005:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/education/doc/reports/doc/access.pdf>

Study on early school leavers, September 2005:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/education/doc/reports/doc/earlyleave.pdf>

## **13. THE EU POLICY FOR ACTIVE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP**

### **13.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

Active citizenship starts at local level. Local level offers the starting point to the dynamism that can stream to European engagement. In order to help bridging the gap between the citizens and the European Union, it is particularly important that European actions reach citizens in their everyday life, on issues that are of relevance to them.

For a great deal of European citizens, this local level is an urban one. Also the great majority of Commission interlocutors and stakeholders of the current and future programmes are based in cities.

### *Past and current initiatives*

Town twinning activities have the most pronounced urban dimension among all actions supported by the Europe for Citizens Programme (2007-2013). Twinned municipalities are encouraged by European support to work together on themes that concern European citizens across the borders in order to foster their wellbeing and to contribute to strengthening mutual knowledge and understanding. Town twinning is an exceptional tool to local development, contributing to making citizens participate, discuss common concerns, learn about each other's best practices and find solutions together.

Fostering civil dialogue has been a priority of the European Commission for many years.

The Commission Communication of 10 February 2004 "Building our common Future: Policy challenges and Budgetary means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013",<sup>78</sup> proposed developing European citizenship as a main priority for EU action. This includes the need to make citizenship a reality by fostering European culture and diversity, covering areas directly involving European citizens with the integration process, including that of citizenship.

### **13.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013: Europe for Citizens Programme**

Following the first Community programme addressing the promotion of active European citizenship (civic participation) for the period 2004-2006, the Europe for citizens Programme has been adopted. It aims notably to develop citizenship of the European Union, to enhance tolerance and mutual understanding between European citizens respecting and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity, while contributing to intercultural dialogue.

#### *a) Management*

The Europe for Citizens Programme is managed by the European Commission (Education and Culture DG). The programme guide has the status of a permanent call for proposals and in most of its aspects will apply for the whole duration of the programme (2007-2013). For certain actions or measures, the format of which is subject to important developments, specific calls for proposals can be published, with a time-limited validity, as applications can be sent in until a specified date. The programme guide presents the general outline of those actions and measures which will be subject to specific calls for proposals.

The European Commission relies on the European Agency for Culture, Education and Audiovisual (EACEA), which is responsible for the implementation of most of the actions of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

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<sup>78</sup> COM (2004) 101.

*b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

Under this programme, priority is given to certain themes of particular relevance for the development of active European citizenship.

Some of these themes will be relevant for the whole period of the programme and will therefore have a permanent character: participation and democracy in Europe, inter-cultural dialogue, people's well-being in Europe: employment, social cohesion and sustainable development.

Others will be added or updated annually, reacting to new or very specific topics of relevance for this programme arising on the European agenda priorities.

For the year 2007, priority will be given notably to the 2007 European Year on Equal Opportunities for All.

*c) Eligible actions*

The programme supports different kinds of activities under four actions, including the following two that are of interest for urban issues:

- Action 1 "Active citizens for Europe" is directed specifically at activities involving citizens from local communities across Europe to meet, share and exchange experiences, opinions and values, to encourage debate, to learn from history and to build for the future. The action is divided in two measures: Town-Twinning, which aims at activities that involve or promote direct exchanges between European citizens through their participation in town-twinning activities and encourage networking and cooperation between twinned towns, and Citizens' projects, which explore innovative methods of enabling citizens' participation. In order to improve town-twinning and citizens' projects, support measures are being funded to exchange best practices, to pool experiences between stakeholders and to develop new skills.
- Action 2 "Active civil society for Europe" is directed at civil society organisations and think tanks, which will receive either structural support on the basis of their work programme or support to transnational projects initiated by civil society organisations established at local, regional, national or European level.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

Direct beneficiaries of grants: all stakeholders promoting active European citizenship, for instance, local authorities and organisations, European public policy research organisations (think-tanks), citizens' groups, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, organisations active in the field of voluntary work, etc.

*e) Budget*

The programme has an overall budget of 215 million euros for 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

*f) Further information*

For the relevant documents (Programme Guide, calls for proposals) and updated information on the programme, see:

Education and Culture DG - Unit D.4 "Civil society: partnerships and visits"

E-mail: [eac-unite-d4@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eac-unite-d4@ec.europa.eu)

*Websites:*

[http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.html)

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency - Unit P7 'Citizenship'

E-mail: <mailto:eacea-p7@ec.europa.eu>

Website: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.htm)

### **13.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

Golden Stars awards:

[http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/gold/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/gold/index_en.html)

Best practices from the Community Action Programme to promote active European citizenship 2004-2006:

[http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/best\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/best_en.html)

### **13.4. Information sources**

*Websites*

Education and Culture DG on Town-Twinning:

[http://ec.europa.eu/towntwinning/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/towntwinning/index_en.html)

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.htm)

## **14. URBAN DIMENSION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EU AREA OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY**

### **14.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

Justice, Freedom and Security are among main concerns of European citizens, including those who live in urban areas. Major European cities have to ensure social cohesion and manage increased diversity. Immigration has transformed European cities. For instance, the non-native Dutch population of Amsterdam and Rotterdam was 6% in 1973 and is forecast to be over 50% by 2020. More than one-third of the population of cities as different as Birmingham and Marseille are ethnic minorities. Local and regional authorities face common challenges in this respect.

Another aspect is that local and regional authorities have to assure public safety, prevent and fight organised crime, tackle drug abuses and trafficking for all of the urban population. As regards urban crime and other forms of social disorder, they are - according to several opinion polls - among the most pressing citizens' concerns. In many industrialised countries, problems of community safety are presently viewed as more serious than those of the economy, the environment or national security. Within the framework of the EU, several initiatives have been taken which seek to address the raised problems with both global and specific approaches.

Ensuring social cohesion based on diversity, as well as strengthening the rule of law and security, are the fundamental priorities of the European Union. The 2006 Commission Communication to the European Council on "A Citizens' Agenda for Europe"<sup>79</sup> again recognises it again, strongly reaffirming the importance of developing the specific area of Freedom, Security and Justice. The current political framework for detailed specific legislative and non-legislative actions is the Hague programme, adopted by the European Council in November 2004.<sup>80</sup>

On the basis of the Hague Programme<sup>81</sup>, **Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy in the EU (CBPs)**<sup>82</sup> were adopted. In September 2005, the Commission put forward **A Common Agenda for Integration**, which provides a framework for the integration of third-country nationals in the EU<sup>83</sup>. Council conclusions on the Common Agenda further underlined the need to enhance a common approach to integration policies and measures<sup>84</sup>.

According to the [Communication on crime prevention](#)<sup>85</sup> adopted in 2004, this concept should include all activities which contribute to halting or reducing crime as a social phenomenon, both quantitatively and qualitatively, either through permanent and structured cooperation measures or through ad hoc initiatives. The actions can be undertaken by all the actors likely to play a preventive role: local representatives, enforcement services and the judicial system, social services, education system, associations in the broad sense, industry, banks and the private sector, research workers and scientists, and the general public, supported by the media.

The **EU Drugs Strategy**<sup>86</sup> (2005-2012) was adopted to tackle the drugs problems and to set targets for all EU drug-related activities to attain a high level of protection, well-being and social cohesion by preventing and reducing drug use, dependence and drug-related harms to health and society. The EU Action Plan on Drugs 2005-2008<sup>87</sup> translates these targets into a list of concrete actions to reduce

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<sup>79</sup> COM (2006) 211.

<sup>80</sup> The Hague Programme: strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union, OJ C 53/1 of 3.5.2005.

<sup>81</sup> The Hague Programme: strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union, OJ C 53/1 of 3.5.2005.

<sup>82</sup> Council Document 14615/04

<sup>83</sup> COM(2005) 389

<sup>84</sup> Council Document 14390/05

<sup>85</sup> COM (2004) 165.

<sup>86</sup> OJ C 168 of 8.7.2005.

<sup>87</sup> OJ C 168/1 of 8.7.2005.

the prevalence of drug use among the population and to reduce the social harm and health damage caused by drugs.

## **14.2. EU co-financing 2007-2013**

While the Union focused on legislative action during the establishment phase of the area of freedom, security and justice, and complemented this by financial support on a rather limited scale, the work of the Union in this area has entered, since 2007 onwards, a phase in which operational concerns are more prominent. With regard to new challenges, solidarity and security issues have acquired a new urgency, thus requiring a more operational and comprehensive approach. This includes the reinforcement and streamlining of Member States' efforts, putting greater emphasis on sound application of legislative and political measures.

### *14.2.1. Framework programme "Solidarity and management of migration movements"*

It is composed of four funds, including the European Refugee Fund and the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals, which are of urban interest.

#### 1 - European Refugee Fund (2008-2013)

Aims to support and encourage the efforts made by the Member States in receiving and bearing the consequences of receiving refugees and displaced persons. As well as the integration of such persons into a Member States' society, the fund also supports actions relating to reception conditions and asylum procedures and enhancement of Member States capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies, particularly in the context of practical cooperation activities between Member States.

##### *a) Management*

The objectives of the Funds are to be implemented mainly by co-financing actions at Member States level, with the programming of their operations, undertaken on the basis of strategic guidelines established by the Community. The multi-annual programme is to be implemented through national annual programmes, setting out the concrete actions to be co-financed, the target population and milestones to be met for each budgetary year. A responsible authority in the Member State shall coordinate and monitor the implementation of the actions co-financed (implementation in shared management). This may involve the launching of calls for proposals and tendering procedures at national level.

In addition, the Commission is to be responsible for the (centralised) management of the "Community actions" selected through calls for proposals and/or tenders for transnational actions and actions in the interest of the Community.

##### *b) Eligible actions*

As regards integration, it supports actions such as advice and assistance in areas such as housing, means of subsistence, integration into the labour market, medical, psychological and social care; adaptation into the society of the Member

State in socio-cultural terms; promotion of durable and sustainable participation in civil and cultural life; education, vocational training, recognition of qualifications and diplomas; promotion of self-empowerment and self-sufficiency; to enable these persons to provide for themselves; meaningful contact and constructive dialogue; acquisition of skills by these persons, including language training; equality of access and equality of outcomes in relation to dealings with public institutions.

*c) Eligible beneficiaries*

The resources will be distributed annually among the Member States on the basis of objective criteria, reflecting the burden borne by each Member State through its efforts in receiving asylum seekers and integrating persons benefiting from international protection (refugees, persons benefiting from subsidiary protection).

*d) Budget*

The total budget is 628 million euros for the period 2008-2013. There is no financial allocation for urban projects.

*e) Further information*

Contact: Justice, Freedom and Security DG - Unit B4: Financial solidarity for immigration, asylum and borders.

Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/funding/intro/funding\\_intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm)

## 2 - European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

It aims to support the efforts of Member States to enable third country nationals to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into European societies, in accordance with the Common Basic Principles, and in complementarity with the European Social Fund (ESF).

*a) Management*

The objectives of the Funds are to be implemented mainly by co-financing actions at Member State level, with the programming of their operations undertaken on the basis of strategic guidelines established by the Community. The multi-annual programme shall be implemented through national annual programmes, setting out the concrete actions to be co-financed, the target population and milestones to be met for each budgetary year. A responsible authority in the Member State shall coordinate and monitor the implementation of the actions co-financed (implementation in shared management). This may involve the launching of calls for proposals and tendering procedures at national level.

In addition, the Commission shall be responsible for the (centralised) management of the "Community actions" selected through calls for proposals and/or tenders for transnational actions and actions in the interest of the Community.

*b) Eligible actions*

The Fund cofinances concrete actions supporting the integration of legally resident third-country nationals in Member States. For example, programmes and activities in Member States aiming at introducing newly arrived third country nationals to the host society and enabling them to acquire basic knowledge about the host society's language, history, institutions, socio-economic features, cultural life and the fundamental norms and values.

Moreover, the Fund would also support Member States and local authorities in enhancing their capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate in general all integration strategies, policies and measures for third-country nationals, and the exchange of information, best practice and co-operation in and between Member States.

*c) Eligible beneficiaries*

The resources will be distributed annually among the Member States on the basis of objective criteria, reflecting the burden borne by each Member State in the field of integration of third-country nationals.

*d) Budget*

A total budget of 825 million euros is allocated for the period 2007-2013.

*e) Further information*

Contact: Justice, Freedom and Security DG - Unit B4: Financial solidarity for immigration, asylum and borders.

Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/funding/intro/funding\\_intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm)

*14.2.2. Framework programme "Security and Safeguarding Liberties"  
(2007-2013)*

It aims to tackle the problems of insecurity and crime. The specific instrument "**Prevention of and fight against crime**" that is of urban interest is devoted to the prevention of and fight against crime, organised or otherwise.

*a) Management*

The priorities identified on the annual basis by the Commission will be implemented through national and transnational projects. The latter must be initiated and managed by at least two Member States under the required conditions. It is foreseen that national projects will only be eligible as starter or complementary measures if they have a potential for transferability of results to EU level or they otherwise contribute to developing a Union policy. The beneficiaries can send the applications, with respect of conditions and deadline required in the published annual calls for proposals. It will be accompanied by a guide for applicants.

*b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

The financial support should address, among others, the matters such as quantitative measurement of crime levels and trends of urban, drug-related and juvenile crime as well as impact of urban planning and renovation policies,

educational activities, alternatives to prison for drug-using juvenile offenders. The programme can also support exchange of best practice and successful intervention in crime prevention. One of the priorities also concerns restorative justice with a view to identifying mature policies and the factors of their success. Particular emphasis should be placed on determining the extent of the role of offender management in the restorative justice model. The identified good practice examples should be disseminated through the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) website.

*c) Eligible actions*

In particular, financial support may be provided for actions improving operational cooperation and coordination (strengthening networking, mutual confidence and understanding, exchange and dissemination of information, experience and best practices). They may also concern analytical, monitoring and evaluation activities, development and transfer of technology and methodology, training, exchange of staff and experts, and awareness and dissemination activities.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

The programme is notably aimed at public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions, including local, regional and national authorities, social partners, universities, statistical offices, non-governmental organisations and public-private partnerships

*e) Budget*

The overall budget is EUR 600 million (current prices) for 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

*f) Further information*

Contact: [JLS-ISEC@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JLS-ISEC@ec.europa.eu)

Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/funding/intro/funding\\_intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm)

*14.2.3. Framework programme “Fundamental Rights and Justice” – Drugs prevention and information*

This framework programme aims to strengthen cooperation in the field of fundamental rights and justice and it includes a specific instrument on **“Drugs prevention and information”** that is of urban interest. Its aims are to prevent and reduce drug use, dependence and drug-related harms and to contribute to the improvement of information on drug use.

*a) Management*

The "Drugs prevention and information" instrument is managed by the European Commission (Justice, Freedom and Security DG) which prepares the annual work programme and launches annual calls for proposals, together with a guide for applicants.

*b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

The thematic priorities do not explicitly relate to urban issues, but clearly these issues have an urban dimension as drugs prevention and information has a strong focus in urban areas.

*c) Eligible actions*

The actions will support the exchange of information and the identification and dissemination of good practice, including through training, study visits and staff exchanges, development and improvement of information and prevention programmes, and development of alternatives to imprisonment for drugs abusers.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

The programme is destined for all groups that are directly or indirectly concerned by the drugs problem. Projects should be designed to benefit all groups at risk from drug abuse. Other target groups or participants in projects may be, inter alia, teachers and educational staff, social workers, local and national authorities, medical and paramedical staff, judicial staff and NGOs. The involvement of civil society, local authorities, teachers, social workers and medical staff, amongst others, is naturally sought through a possibility to set up multidisciplinary networks with a view to developing and exchanging best practice and knowledge in the field of drugs prevention.

*e) Budget*

21.35 million euros for 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

*f) Further information*

Contact: <mailto:JLS-DRUGS-PROGRAMME@EC.EUROPA.EU>

Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/funding/intro/funding\\_intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm)

### **14.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

#### *14.3.1. Integration*

The network of the **National Contact Points on Integration** (NCPI) was set up 2003 by the Commission with a view to exchanging best practice and information on integration. It plays an important role in monitoring progress across policy fields and in ensuring that efforts at national, regional and EU level are mutually reinforcing.

Two editions of the **Handbook on Integration for Policy-Makers and Practitioners** were published. Handbooks are elaborated in cooperation with NCPIs together with regional/local authorities and non-governmental stakeholders and represent a driver for the exchange of information and good practice. The first edition, issued in 2004, covered the introduction of newly-arrived immigrants and recognised refugees, civic participation and indicators. The second edition focuses on other key issues developed in the Common Basic Principles: mainstreaming and integration infrastructure, examining the

mechanisms used for implementing successful integration strategies across all policy fields; housing in an urban environment and economic integration, which present lessons learned in these areas. A third edition is planned for 2009.

A comprehensive approach involving stakeholders at all levels is essential for the success of integration policies. In October 2006, the Commission supported an initiative of the Mayor of Rotterdam and the Eurocities organisation to initiate a process called '**Integrating cities**' aimed to focus on integration challenges from an urban perspective. This initiative will find its continuity in a project, selected within INTI Programme 2006, "**Benchmarking Integration Governance in European cities**", coordinated by the "Eurocities" network.

A **European Integration Forum** will be established in 2008 to assemble a range of stakeholders active in the area of integration at EU level. EU umbrella organisations, having a membership across a number of Member States, will exchange expertise and draw up recommendations.

An **Integration website** is currently under preparation. It will maintain an inventory of good practices, to promote their exchange and assess their efficacy and transferability to different contexts.

#### *14.3.2. Crime prevention*

The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) aims to contribute to developing the various aspects of crime prevention at Union level and support crime prevention activities at local and national level, with particular attention to juvenile, urban and drug-related crime. It collects and analyses information; facilitates cooperation, contacts and exchange of information and experience at Union and national levels; and contributes to identifying and developing the main areas in the crime prevention field.

### **14.4. Information sources**

Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security, EU funding opportunities in the area of justice, freedom and security:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/funding/intro/funding\\_intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm)

#### *Publications*

Two editions of the Handbook on Integration for policy-makers and practitioners:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/immigration/integration/doc\\_immigration\\_integration\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/immigration/integration/doc_immigration_integration_en.htm)

Annual report on the priorities of activities carried out by the EUCPN and their implementation:

<http://www.eucpn.org/keydocs/Work%20Programme-principles&themes.pdf>

A review of good practice in preventing various types of violence in the EU:  
<http://www.eucpn.org/pubdocs/A%20review%20of%20good%20practice%20in%20preventing%20various%20types%20of%20violence%20in%20the%20EU.pdf>

A review of good practice in preventing juvenile crime in the EU:  
<http://www.eucpn.org/goodpractice/index.asp>

## **15. URBAN DIMENSION OF THE EU PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY**

### **15.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

Cities and urban areas can be very healthy places to live. High quality urban environments, easy access to services, promoting the development of walking and cycling means of transport, stimulating social and cultural experiences, all contribute to making some urban citizens some of the healthiest people in Europe. At the same time, urban areas contain concentrations of the disadvantaged, poor living and working conditions, environmental conditions which could negatively impact on health, higher levels of addiction to alcohol, drugs and tobacco, less healthy eating, physical activity and sexual behaviour: factors which contribute to a higher level of physical and mental illness particularly in deprived communities.

#### *Past and current initiatives*

EU public health policies address determinants of health such as lifestyle, addictions and physical and social environments. The development of urban environments which support and enable healthy choices, for example in terms of promoting physical activity, is a key priority of public health policy. Action together with Member States and other stakeholders, including cities and municipalities, aims to improve health, prevent disease and reduce health inequalities. The importance of local level action is highlighted in key policies such as the EU strategies on alcohol,<sup>88</sup> drugs,<sup>89</sup> environment and health<sup>90</sup> and HIV/AIDS<sup>91</sup> as well as Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity<sup>92</sup>.

#### *Future initiatives*

A new health strategy is expected in 2007, together with further proposals for action on mental health. On 30 May, the Commission adopted its proposals for nutrition and obesity in the form of a White Paper.

### **15.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013 - Programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008)**

The current programme of Community action in the field of public health aims to improve information and knowledge for the development of public health, to enhance capability to respond to health threats and to promote health and prevent diseases addressing health determinants.

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<sup>88</sup> EU strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol-related harm, COM (2006) 625 final.

<sup>89</sup> EU Drugs Action Plan (2005-2008), OJ L 168/1 of 8.7.2005.

<sup>90</sup> EU Environment and Health Action Plan, COM (2004) 416 final.

<sup>91</sup> Communication on combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in the neighbouring countries, 2006-2009, COM (2005) 654 final.

<sup>92</sup> White Paper on a Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues, COM (2007) 279 final

*a) Management*

The current programme of Community action in the field of public health is under the responsibility of the European Commission (Health and Consumer Protection DG), and managed by the EC Public Health Agency (PHEA). A work plan is published each January identifying Commission priorities for the coming year. This is followed by an annual call for proposals and a guide for proposers.

*b) Thematic priorities related to urban issues*

Public health policy themes which are particularly relevant to urban citizens are those relating to environment and health, addictions to drugs, alcohol and tobacco, mental health, lifestyle factors such as physical activity, nutrition and sexual behaviour, accident prevention, as well as the impact of socio-economic factors on health.

*c) Eligible actions*

Priority is given to projects having European added value which support policy developments and implementation as well as joint evaluation of activities.

On the specific subject of urban development and health, projects dealing with exchange of experiences on assertive urban planning, policy development and evaluation of impact could be supported.

*d) Eligible beneficiaries*

Partnership of local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, such as NGOs dealing with exchange of experiences in health.

A number of projects have already been funded which include a local authority as a main partner or have involved a network of local government. The overall involvement of local authorities in the programme remains modest.

*e) Budget*

The total budget of the programme 2003-2008 is EUR 353.77 million. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

*f) Further information*

To assist with applications, the European Commission has established National Focal Points (NFPs) related to the Public Health Programme calls for proposals in a number of EU Member States and participating countries.

List of the NFPs: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_programme/agency/docs/nfp\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/agency/docs/nfp_en.pdf)

For the relevant documents and updated information on the programme, see: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_programme/howtoapply/how\\_to\\_apply\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/howtoapply/how_to_apply_en.htm)

### **15.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

The EU Platform for action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health:

It was set up by the European Commission in 2005 to identify actions that private actors can undertake which will contribute to improving diet and physical activity levels in the population. It comprises organisations at EU level with an interest in nutrition, physical activity issues and obesity, such as consumer organisations, the food industry, physical activity organisations, national government representatives, academics and public health NGOs, amongst others.

The initiative has been valuable in bringing together various actors around the common issue of how to improve diet and physical activity, and to focus attention on these issues. It may benefit actors in an urban setting to consider whether the creation of such a forum could contribute to effective action at that level.

For further information, see our web-site below. A similar forum to explore alcohol issues (the Alcohol and Health Forum) was established in June 2007.

### **15.4 Information sources**

The Health and Consumer Protection DG on public health:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm)

The EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/nutrition/platform/platform\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/nutrition/platform/platform_en.htm)

The Public Health Programme:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_programme/programme\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/programme_en.htm)

## **16. URBAN DIMENSION OF THE EUROPEAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

### **16.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

Cities are spreading, minimising the time and distances between and in-and-out of the cities. Peri-urban areas are now regarded as one of the major common challenges facing urban Europe. This phenomenon is called urban sprawl. That is explained by both micro and macro socio-economic trends such as the means of transportation, the price of land, individual housing preferences, demographic trends, cultural traditions and constraints, the attractiveness of existing urban areas, and, not least, the application of land use planning policies at both local and regional scales. It creates environmental, social and economic impacts for both the cities and countryside of Europe, and new needs to be fulfilled such as transport, basic services, leisure, communication and tourism.<sup>93</sup> The promotion of sustainable territorial development requires the management of the urban-rural interface and coordination and cooperation between all the relevant stakeholders.

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<sup>93</sup> ["Urban sprawl in Europe: the ignored challenge"](#), EEA report, October 2006.

### *Past and current initiatives*

During the last periods the EU rural development policy evolved from a policy dealing with the structural problems of the farm sector to one facing the challenges in its wider rural context. The central objective of the policy became helping to maintain and improve the social and economic structure in rural areas, including peri-urban regions.

Until the period 2000-2006, LEADER+ has been one of the four 'Community initiatives' financed by the EU structural funds.

The Leader Method is based on local development strategies developed by local action groups (LAGs) and cooperation projects between areas.

Small towns have been included within the definition of rural area and, subsequently, area of the Local Action Group (LAG) – Member States decided the size (in the UK, for example, they can be quite big) – adjacent to the main target area of the LAG. Through this facility urban actors may also be drawn into the implementation of the development strategy of the LAG.

## **16.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

The strategic guidelines for rural development form the basis for the new rural development policy.<sup>94</sup> They aim notably to maintain a sustainable balance between urban and rural areas. The [European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development 2007-2013 \(EAFRD\)](#)<sup>95</sup> sets three main objectives for the rural development policy: increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector (axis 1); enhancing the environment and countryside through support for land management (axis 2); enhancing the quality of life in rural areas and promoting diversification of economic activities (axis 3). Additional emphasis is given on the LEADER bottom-up approach involving rural community actors in planning and decision-making (axis 4).

### *a) Management*

Following the subsidiarity principle Member States and regions prepare their National Strategy Plans (NSPs) and Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). Programmes are assessed and approved by the Commission, but implemented by the national or regional programming authorities at the appropriate territorial level. In total 94 RDPs will define the implementation of the Community Rural development policy for the period 2007-2013. Demarcation between EAFRD and the structural funds is ensured.

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<sup>94</sup> Council Decision of 20 February 2006 on Community strategic guidelines for rural development (programming period 2007 to 2013), OJ L 55/20 of 25.2.2006.

<sup>95</sup> [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l\\_055/l\\_05520060225en00200029.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_055/l_05520060225en00200029.pdf)  
Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for the rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), September 2005, OJ L 277/1 of 21.10.2005.

*b) Measures related to peri-urban issues with an urban interest*

The EAFRD support is provided through a set of pre-defined per axis measures within the scope of which programming authorities define eligible actions. While axes 3 and 4 target mostly rural areas, axes 1 and 2 cover all the territory of the programming area. However, peri-urban areas falling in the RDPs' definitions of rural areas may further benefit from axis 3 and 4 measures. Support is given for investments, management, training and advisory services, or for development purposes of different kind, depending on the type of measure.

Examples of measures being of an urban interest, which are also applicable in peri-urban areas could be given:

- Axis 1 – Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector:
  - Adding value to agricultural and forestry products.  
Support is provided to processing and marketing of agricultural products or to development of new ones. . Investments are often made in companies established in urban rather than rural areas and may therefore support urban economic development.
  - Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector.  
Participation in food quality schemes ensures safe and high-quality agricultural products for city dwellers.  
Product innovation is often carried out in urban areas.
  - Vocational training and information actions
  - Use of advisory services
- Axis 2 – Improving the environment and the countryside:
  - Agri-environment includes organic farming and landscape conservation schemes that also indirectly benefit urban areas.
  - NATURA 2000 payments.
- Axis 3 – Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy:
  - Encouragement of tourism activities

Tourism provides urban areas with recreational facilities.

- Basic services for the population

Setting-up of basic infrastructure for the rural population, and that of towns falling into the definition, as well as of leisure and cultural activities.

- Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage

Cultural and historical investments and studies providing urban and peri-urban areas with access to national and regional traditions as well historical heritage located in rural areas.

- Leader Axis (Axis 4):

Leader could cover all axes. There are no predefined themes and rural towns included. This means that the inhabitants of such towns are eligible for all activities that can be supported under the local development strategy. It is the programming authority that defines the areas of the Local Action Groups.

*c) Eligible beneficiaries*

The "beneficiary", who is responsible for implementing operations and/or receiving support in the EU-27, is an operator, body or firm, whether public or private in accordance with the Community legal framework<sup>96</sup>, the RDPs and the implementing rules of the programming authority.

The beneficiary depends on the type of measures. In the majority of cases, under axes 1 and 2 the beneficiaries are farmers and foresters. However, rural actors and individuals, food processors or third parties, as well as local public bodies, can notably benefit from EAFRD support.

*d) Budget*

A total envelope of 88,294,374,687 euros is foreseen for the period 2007-2013 for rural development.<sup>97</sup> There is no specific allocation based on territorial demarcation.

### 16.3. Information sources

*Websites*

Directorate-General for Agriculture:

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm)

LEADER+: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index_en.htm)

*Publications*

Rural Development Factsheets

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/publi/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/publi/index_en.htm)

Rural development Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/eval/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/eval/index_en.htm)

Rural Development in the European Union - Statistical and Economic Information - Report 2006:

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/agrista/rurdev2006/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/agrista/rurdev2006/index_en.htm)

Employment in rural areas: closing the jobs gap - COM(2006) 857 final

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/employment/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/employment/index_en.htm)

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<sup>96</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1974/2006 of 15 December 2006 laying down the rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005.

<sup>97</sup> Commission Decision 2006/636/CE.

## **17. URBAN DIMENSION OF THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL POLICY**

### **17.1. EU political background related to urban issues**

Development opportunities and challenges are increasingly concentrated in urban areas which are the engines of national, regional and local economic development. Rapid urban growth is burdening the environment of developing countries due to air pollution, degradation of land, lack of clean water, hazardous and toxic waste, solid waste and lack of green space. Although rural and urban development are interdependent, it is usually the urban poor who face the consequences of urban environmental degradation. Cities rely rather on imported products than on home produced ones. Additionally, the exponential urban growth is built on weak infrastructure and services. As a result the city enters in a spiral of decline. In order to respond successfully, a constant flow of finances as well as effective institutions are needed. Consequently, a positive correlation between institutional changes, organisational restructuring and human resources training combined with infrastructure investments (also extended to rural areas thus creating less rural-to-urban migration) could lead to poverty reduction.

#### *Past and current initiatives*

The European Union subscribes to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and has geared its development policy towards poverty reduction. The principles governing European Union development co-operation are outlined in the April 2000 Communication from the Commission<sup>98</sup> and are consistent with objectives and programmes agreed at international level, including conclusions of the United Nations conferences and international development targets (particularly Habitat II, Istanbul 1996). The core of Habitat II is "adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanising world."<sup>99</sup> Furthermore, the European Council agreed in April 1997 on "Environmental Measures in Developing Countries in the Context of Sustainable Development." The regulation aims at "improving the environment and regional planning through urban development planning and the implementation of technologically adapted plans and pilot projects for transport, waste, waste water, the provision of drinking water and air pollution."<sup>100</sup>

### **17.2. EU cofinancing for 2007-2013**

There were thirty-five legal and financial instruments enabling the execution of development assistance projects. These instruments are divided according to either themes (Food Security, European Initiative for Human Rights, etc.) or geographical regions (EDF, MEDA – measures for the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, etc.). For 2007-2013, these thirty-five instruments have been fused into ten out of which the following three include more or less urban development actions: the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument

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<sup>98</sup> The European Community's Development Policy, Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, COM(2000) 212.

<sup>99</sup> The Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, General Assembly Resolutions 51/177 of 16 December 1996 and 53/282 of 28 July 1999.

<sup>100</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 722/97 of 22 April 1997 on "environmental measures in developing countries in the context of sustainable development", Article 2.1.

(DCECI), the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

- The **Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument (DCECI)** includes the financial and technical cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries under the Cotonou Agreement, (€3.7 billion per year) and under country-specific programmes in Latin America, Asia and South Africa (€1.4 billion per year). Additionally, the instrument finances thematic programmes (€800 million per year) in all third countries, except industrialised and pre-accession countries. The programmes include human social development, environment, non-State actors, food security, migration and asylum.
- The **European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)** covers cross border cooperation between EU Member States and immediate neighbours (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine (€1.6 billion per year). Furthermore Twinning projects provide the framework for administrations and semi-public organisations in the beneficiary countries to work with their counterparts in Member States. Together they develop and implement a project that targets the transposition, enforcement and implementation of a specific part of the *acquis communautaire*.
- The **Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)** covers the candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and Macedonia) and the potential candidates (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia including Kosovo) (€1.6 billion per year) in the scope of transition assistance, institution building, cross-border cooperation, regional, rural and human resources development.

a) *Management*

The Country Strategy Paper (CSP) and the annexed National/Regional Indicative Programme (NIP/RIP) are approved by the Member States and co-signed by the recipient countries and the Commission. In order to reach a consistent and effective development approach, urban development assistance has to be included in the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) and is conducted on the basis of the principles of sectoral support, sustainability and good governance. The CSP serve as a framework defining the themes and types of aid channelled to a given country. The new instruments allow for a decentralised and demand-driven approach to deliver more, better and faster funding. About ninety EC Delegations around the world assist the beneficiary countries to identify, formulate and implement all projects and programmes in compliance with the prevailing rules governing these instruments, following approval of the project outline by the Member States.

The European Commission channels external aid by means of either contracts (to service providers such as consultants and other public or semi-public bodies, suppliers, contractors, or directly to beneficiary countries) or grants (usually to non-profit-making organisations). Contracts are awarded after a tendering process on the basis of projects identified by the EU in conjunction with beneficiary countries. Similarly, grants for projects are provided by the EU on the basis of calls for proposals.

b) *Thematic priorities and eligible actions related to urban issues*

- **Rehabilitation and reconstruction of urban infrastructure** focuses in particular on *social infrastructure* (following natural disasters, or after conflicts) and *crisis management*. While the emergency phase lies in the field of humanitarian aid, EuropeAid is responsible for the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. Reconstruction also involves *basic infrastructure* (water, roadway systems, health, justice, etc.), infrastructure for social integration (for refugees or displaced persons), as well as infrastructure for *economic recovery* (markets, tourism).
- **Risk reduction and disaster prevention** is a response to the rising unplanned urban growth, environmental degradation and climate variability. Disaster Reduction and Recovery (DRR) activities include: the creation of institutional and legislative frameworks, risk assessment and early warning mechanism, education and awareness-raising for the population, reduction of risk factors (ecosystem management, land-use planning, reinforcing critical infrastructure and social safety-net mechanisms) and strengthening of technical and institutional capacities.
- **Urban development actions:** The *construction of buildings* comprises essentially basic infrastructure in the fields of education, health and justice. Programmes on water *sanitation, solid waste disposal and slum upgrading* have a direct health impact, as well as social and economic consequences and are pivotal for urban centres. In order to have an interlinked city, able to uptake urban growth, a connecting *street network* has to be established and maintained. Districts, like the cultural and historical sites within the city boundaries, are restored and preserved through *specific heritage protection* programmes.
- **Local governance** has proved to be more efficient in reaching out to poor people than centralised governance.<sup>101</sup> Democratic institutions allow inhabitants to participate in city life by defending their interests. As it lies in the responsibility of the local governments to manage the exponential growth of urban areas and to link the peripheral rural areas with cities adequately, local participation and shared responsibility is of paramount importance.
- **Micro- and SME finance and enterprise:** Microfinance offers to micro, small and medium entrepreneurs a unique possibility to contribute to business and economic development inside cities and rural towns. Additionally, an efficient banking system provides security for creditors, savers and investors, especially in highly populated areas.

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<sup>101</sup> Reference document: Supporting Decentralisation and Local Governance in Third Countries, EuropeAid, January 2007.

c) *Eligible beneficiaries*

The eligibility criteria vary depending on the legal and financial instrument used for development assistance. As a general rule, all legal entities and physical persons coming from the Member States are potentially eligible to participate in the calls for tender (European metropolitan areas in charge of water and waste management may be involved) and proposals (this does not include cities).

d) *Further information*

For the relevant documents (calls for proposals and tenders, applicants' guide) and updated information on the programmes, see:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/tender/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/tender/index_en.htm)

E-mail for general issues: [europeaid-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:europeaid-info@ec.europa.eu)

E-mail for urban issues: [europeaid-e7-infrastructures@ec.europa.eu](mailto:europeaid-e7-infrastructures@ec.europa.eu)

Internet site: [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm)

Delegations Websites:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external\\_relations/delegations/intro/web.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/delegations/intro/web.htm)

For information on programmes and projects:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/projects/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/projects/index_en.htm)

For specific information on countries and regions please choose the area of your interest in the toolbar of the following website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external\\_relations/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/index.htm)

### **17.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC**

European Union Development Policy: <http://www.europe-cares.org>

EC contribution to UN HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme:

<http://ww2.unhabitat.org/default.asp>

EC trust fund with Cities Alliance: <http://www.citiesalliance.org>

### **17.4. Information sources**

#### *Websites*

Development DG: <http://www.europe-cares.org/>

Information on cofinancing with European NGOs:

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/tender/data/d98/AOF71698.doc>

#### *Publications*

Annual Report 2006 on the European Community Development Policy and the implementation of External Assistance in 2005:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/reports/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/reports/index_en.htm)



# ANNEX

## European financing 2007-2013 and themes

EU COFINANCING  THEMES	Cohesion policy funds	FP7 Specific "Cooperation" programme	CIP Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme	Other EU action programmes
Urban environment	ERDF Cohesion Fund	"Environment" research theme		LIFE+ Programme
Urban transport	ERDF Cohesion Fund	"Transport", "Energy", "ICT" research themes	"ICT policy support" programme	
Energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energies	ERDF Cohesion Fund	"Energy" research theme	"Intelligent Energy Europe" Programme	
ICT for an inclusive society	ERDF	"ICT" research theme	"ICT policy support" programme	
Employment, education, training, administrative capacity, social inclusion, working conditions, gender equality, anti-discrimination	ESF ERDF			- PROGRESS - European Globalisation Fund - European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (2007) - Life-long Learning Programme
Innovation and SMEs	ERDF		"Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme"	
Culture	ERDF			Culture 2007
Youth, Citizenship				- Youth in Action - Citizens for Europe programme
Public health	ERDF			- Public Health programme - Drugs prevention and information
Housing	ERDF (Article 7 for regions from the new Member States)		"Intelligent Energy Europe" Programme	

<b>EU COFINANCING</b> <b>THEMES</b>	<b>Cohesion policy funds</b>	<b>FP7 Specific "Cooperation" programme</b>	<b>CIP Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme</b>	<b>Other EU action programmes</b>
<b>Managing migration</b>	ESF			- European Refugee Fund - European Fund for the integration of third country nationals
<b>Criminality</b>	ERDF (Article 8)			Prevention of and fight against crime Programme
<b>Socio-economic research related to urban issues</b>	ERDF (ESPON, URBACT)	"Socio-economic sciences and humanities" research theme		
<b>Rural development in peri-urban areas</b>	ERDF			European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
<b>External cooperation</b>				- Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument - European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance