

A look back on my first year



Thirteen months have passed since I joined EUROCITIES as your new secretary general. The time, which has passed at lightning speed, has been very motivating and full of interesting activities and achievements.

Together we have all been active in ensuring that our voice is heard

loud and clear by the renewed European institutions.

We have been working hard within our executive committee and our forums to promote big cities' visions within the new EU political agenda. And we have been successful in mobilising our city politicians on key issues such as work and climate.

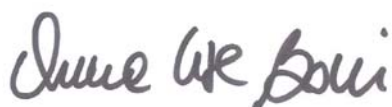
Our strategic framework 2014-2020 has helped us mark our territory on a changed Brussels landscape and draw others closer to our agenda, through a comprehensive set of transversal challenges affecting all major cities.

We have also been successful in establishing ourselves as 'THE' voice of big cities in the work towards an EU urban agenda. I hope that our continued work together with member states, the European Commission and Parliament towards the Dutch presidency in 2016 will bring positive and tangible results.

Challenging times are still ahead: persisting financial constraints for cities, a certain loss of legitimacy for the European project, and a much too slow, if any, economic recovery.

But I remain highly motivated to continue working for and with you towards an ever stronger recognition of our cities in Europe. Because I am convinced this is how we can make Europe a better place for everyone.

I wish you a very happy and restful summer.



Anna Lisa Boni
Secretary general

Breaking down barriers - working together for a better Europe

Over 100 participants met in Lisbon on 18-19 June for 'Cities for accessibility, jobs and inclusion - breaking down barriers together'. The conference attracted EU policy makers, national, regional and local authorities, and representatives from civil society, research and academia.

The event explored the role of cities in making Europe an accessible place, and the impact on employment, social inclusion and active ageing. The conference began with a look at the progress made in implementing the UN Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities in the EU, and the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020. In both cases, much has been achieved but much remains to be done. This is especially important given that the link between disability and poverty has been clearly demonstrated, and that this is associated with barriers to labour market participation.

The cities of Paris, Berlin, Ljubljana, Oslo, and Lisbon showcased concrete and comprehensive approaches to accessibility. Strong political commitment was identified as one of the main success factors behind cities' ability to improve accessibility.

A panel discussion on 'Accessibility - a challenge and a chance for Europe' underlined the urgency of the issue in view of ageing societies across the EU and high exclusion of people with disabilities. The discussion focused in particular on the need for more accessible housing as the basis for



inclusive societies, and highlighted that, despite the fact that making new buildings accessible comes with a negligible cost, inaccessible infrastructure is still being built across Europe. Citing a study on accessible tourism in Germany, the panel also emphasised that accessibility doesn't just imply a cost; it can also have a positive economic impact.

The two day conference culminated in a panel debate with EU and city politicians and officials. The panel was invited to reflect on what Europe needs to become more accessible, followed by an exchange with the audience. The need for favourable fiscal and legal frameworks and a systematic approach to urban development were among the recommendations.

Full article: <http://bit.ly/1BX7g5U>
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HIGHLIGHTS

World Summit for Climate & Territories



The agreement at COP 21, the United Nations conference on climate change in Paris this December, must look beyond national state actors to include local government and civil society. This was the message to COP 21 negotiators, drawn from representatives of local and regional government and civil society, at the World Summit for Climate and Territories in Lyon on 1-2 July.

Important mainstream initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors, Mayors Adapt and the Compact of Mayors were presented to show the extent of local stakeholder mobilisation in tackling climate change.

Local governments and NGOs showcased commitments to reduce CO₂ emissions by 2020. The organisers calculated that that, altogether, these commitments account for 1.5 billion tons of CO₂.

According to the International Panel on Climate Change, a 9bn ton reduction is required to limit global warming to a 2°C rise by 2050.

Christiana Figueres, UNFCC executive secretary, praised local governments for showing that achieving ambitious climate targets is possible, and for giving their countries confidence, ahead of a round of negotiations for which expectations are high.

Various workshops demonstrated how local projects can use integrated approaches to improve people's lives. For example, we organised a workshop on energy production, consumption and access together with Energy Cities and CLER. Riga Energy Agency presented its plan to expand renewables and foster energy efficiency; and Vancouver challenged all cities to pursue their target of going 100% renewable by 2050. During the workshop, a draft text was drawn up encouraging climate negotiators to support the development of local energy policies, in order to achieve more democratic, efficient and effective energy systems that meet citizens' needs.

Johanna Rolland, mayor of Nantes and EUROCIITIES president, presented our statement on COP 21 at the closing plenary. She emphasised our pledge to pursue a comprehensive approach to tackling climate change; and she highlighted how we can use climate action to create jobs, foster innovation, and promote social inclusion to achieve a better quality of life in cities.

Interactive roadmap: <http://bit.ly/1gzkJaz>
Summit declaration: <http://bit.ly/1KzYc8D>
EUROCIITIES statement on COP 21: <http://bit.ly/1lXouCy>
✉ Soraya Zanardo: soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu

Two environmental competitions for European cities

Cities can apply now to become European Green Capital 2018 or European Green Leaf 2016.

The Green Capital award is open to cities across Europe with more than 100,000 inhabitants. Smaller towns and cities, with between 20,000 and 100,000 inhabitants, can apply for the Green Leaf award.

The Green Capital award has been running since 2010. It recognises cities with a well-established record of achieving high environmental standards, and with a commitment to ongoing and ambitious goals for future environmental improvement and sustainable development. The Green Leaf award is in its second year, and rewards success in achieving green growth, and in bringing green living concepts to life. The award winners for both competitions will act as role models for green cities and towns all over Europe, to encourage others to follow their example.

The deadline for both competitions is 19 October. For more information, please visit the links below.

European Green Capital: <http://bit.ly/1Hu6P3r>
European Green Leaf: <http://bit.ly/1KDTJ2N>

OPEN DAYS, open doors

Brussels | 13 October 2015

This year we will once again host our open doors afternoon during OPEN DAYS 2015, which takes place on 12-15 October. This informal open doors afternoon will be on 13 October, when members are invited to drop by our offices to meet staff over a coffee and cake.

✉ Sinéad Mullins: sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu

Do you use space technologies to improve public services?

Eurisy, a non-profit association of space agencies, has launched a survey aimed at local, regional and national public authorities who use satellite navigation (GPS), satellite imagery or satcom to improve public services. The survey is designed to collect feedback from public administrations that have invested in services based on satellites, to understand which systems work, how much they cost, and what the benefits and challenges are.

If your city uses satellite navigation to improve public transport, or satellite imagery to monitor water or air quality, for example, Eurisy would like to hear from you. Visit the link below to complete the survey, which is available in nine languages.

Survey: www.eurisy.org/event-survey/survey-en

Registration & speednetworking at EUROCIITIES 2015 Copenhagen/Malmö

Copenhagen/Malmö | 4-6 November 2015

You can now apply to host a speednetworking session at our annual conference using the form below. Is your city running an innovative initiative? Do you want to find partners for a European project or exchange on urban policies? Or do you have an exciting urban story to tell? Then why not sign up to host a session?

Online registration for the conference is also now open: visit the link below to sign up!

Speednetworking information: <http://bit.ly/1egpg02>
Registration: <http://bit.ly/1KJu8c9>
✉ Sinéad Mullins: sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu

HIGHLIGHTS

OECD workshop: local implementation of Youth Guarantee

Local leadership for inclusive growth was the focus for the 11th Annual Meeting of the OECD - Local Economic and Employment Development Programme, which took place in Manchester on 24-26 June.

Vanda Knowles, our policy director, participated in a workshop at the meeting, entitled 'Local implementation of the Youth Guarantee: addressing the NEETs challenge'.

The workshop heard first from the Greater Manchester Talent Match project. This aims to engage young people aged 18-24 who have been NEETs (not in education, employment or training) for 12 months or more. The project helps them to progress towards employability, and then into employment, by creating sustainable and coordinated pathways into work.

We presented our declaration on work; and we also presented our recently launched video on Newcastle Futures, an innovative not-for-profit company set up by Newcastle city in 2007. Newcastle Futures aims to enhance the UK government's JobCentre Plus employment services. The success of Newcastle Futures highlights the importance of coordination and partnership between cities and central government employment services. It also demonstrates the value of integrating services at local level, to provide specialised support to vulnerable groups. Furthermore, it shows how services can effectively engage with harder to reach young people: trained



staff go out into the community to meet young people in less formal settings, including childcare centres, youth centres, libraries and cafes.

The workshop was facilitated by the University of Warwick's Institute for Employment Research, and was hosted by the University of Manchester and the Greater Manchester Community Voluntary Organisation. Other speakers included: Ulrike Storost from European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion; and Ekaterina Travkina of the OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Development.

Greater Manchester Talent Match: <http://bit.ly/1NK0vU2>
✉ Vanda Knowles: vanda.knowles@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES awards 2015 - the shortlist is out!

Our jury has named the shortlisted projects for this year's EUROCITIES awards.

The three winners, one in each category, will be announced at EUROCITIES 2015 Copenhagen/Malmö on 4 November. Each city will now produce a short video; and short descriptions of the projects are available on our website, at the link below.

■ cooperation

Edinburgh - The Edinburgh Guarantee

Gothenburg - Entrepreneurial Västra Hisingen

Rotterdam - The Rotterdam Business Case

■ innovation

Amsterdam - Optimising charging infrastructure

Milan - Fewer cars, more shared spaces, better quality of life for all

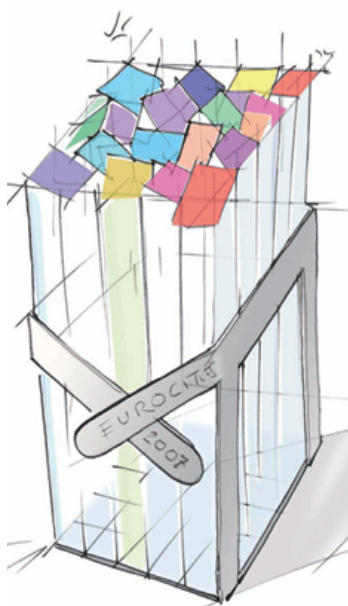
Oslo - The Traffic Agent

■ participation

Edinburgh - Edinburgh in bloom

Glasgow - OPEN Glasgow - city data hub

Utrecht - City talks on sustainable energy: the silent majority speaks



Urban dialogues – migration & asylum in cities

Brussels | 21 September 2015

The next in our series of 'urban dialogues', organised together with The Centre, a Brussels-based forum for discussion, will take place on 21 September. The debate will focus on migration and asylum in cities. It will address issues such as the role cities play in the field of migration and asylum, and the challenges they face.

Ryan Heath, senior correspondent at POLITICO, will moderate the debate. Speakers will include Ahmed Aboutaleb, mayor of Rotterdam; and Thomas Fabian, deputy mayor of Leipzig and chair of our social affairs forum. More details are available at the link below.

EUROCITIES statement on asylum: <http://bit.ly/1BIMoor>
Registration: <http://bit.ly/1HrQHzt>
✉ Nicola Vatthauer: nicola.vatthauer@eurocities.eu

Access City Award 2015

The European prize for making cities more accessible to people with disabilities and older people is now open. Cities can apply for the award by submitting their activities and strategies to make their cities barrier-free, so they are better places for everyone to live and work. The award is open to cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants. Five EU cities will have the opportunity to win an award: there will be first, second and third prizes, plus special mentions on access to work and accessible smart cities.

The deadline for applications is 10 September. The winners will be announced during the European Day of People with Disabilities Conference in Brussels on 7 December.

Information about the award and the two stage selection procedure can be found at the link below.

Shortlisted projects: <http://bit.ly/1L9klwd>
✉ Nicola Vatthauer: nicola.vatthauer@eurocities.eu

More information: <http://bit.ly/1U3sJ2M>

EFSI almost ready

The European Parliament confirmed the agreement with the Council and Commission on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) on 24 June. The fund will focus primarily on telecoms, energy and transport infrastructure, but also on research and innovation projects in education and health.

Support for sustainable urban development is emphasised alongside a number of other objectives in the section that sets out the purpose of the EFSI regulation.

Specific attention is given to projects that create synergies between the digital, energy and transport sectors, including smart sustainable urban mobility. Urban mobility is also highlighted as an area where technical assistance must be available and where members of the fund's investment committee should hold some expertise.

The investment committee is due to be appointed in the coming weeks. It will select projects on a case by case basis, with no distribution quotas for different sectors or member states. The fund's executive director will be appointed in September following a hearing in Parliament.

Parliament has also strengthened the focus on job creation through EFSI investments. This was an element we pushed in our February statement, available at the link provided. A web portal is being developed to give investors access to the details of the projects selected. It is expected to be online towards the end of the year.



Based on an EU guarantee fund of €16 billion, the Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) expect EFSI to attract some €300 billion worth of private investments. This should help boost growth and jobs in the EU. The EIB encourages cities with ideas for projects to get in touch through their EIB country desk officer.

Photo © EC Audiovisual
EUROCITIES statement on EFSI: <http://bit.ly/1HyQUTx>
✉ Dorthe Nielsen: dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu

Urban day at OPEN DAYS 2015

Brussels | 14 October 2015

The European Commission's DG Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO) and Brussels Capital Region are organising an 'urban day' during OPEN DAYS. This will take place in Brussels on 14 October. The day will comprise several workshops, on issues such as co-creation in urban space, smart solutions for citizens, child poverty, and starting green businesses. The Urban Development Network (UDN) for cities, and the managing authorities responsible for implementing some of the new instruments under the structural funds (integrated territorial investments and innovative actions), will meet to discuss social inclusion and low carbon initiatives. There will also be opportunities to visit Brussels' central canal district. More information will be available shortly on DG REGIO's website.

DG REGIO: <http://bit.ly/1R9YrKu>
✉ Dorthe Nielsen: dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu

A step forward for the EU urban agenda



The European Parliament's regional policy committee (REGI) adopted an opinion by Kerstin Westphal MEP (DE, S&D) on the urban dimension of EU policies on 17 June.

The opinion makes a strong case for better coordination of EU policies and more effective partnerships across all governance levels.

The suggestions for implementing an urban agenda take into account several of our proposals, including an urban envoy, regular urban summits, and better involvement of cities in strategic policy development and programming.

MEPs also suggest setting up several pilot actions to test a working method for an urban agenda.

A vote will take place in plenary in September, following a joint debate on the urban agenda and the 6th Cohesion Report.

EUROCITIES statement on an EU urban agenda: <http://bit.ly/1NyxAEj>
✉ Dorthe Nielsen: dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu

Discover cultural initiatives in cities & regions

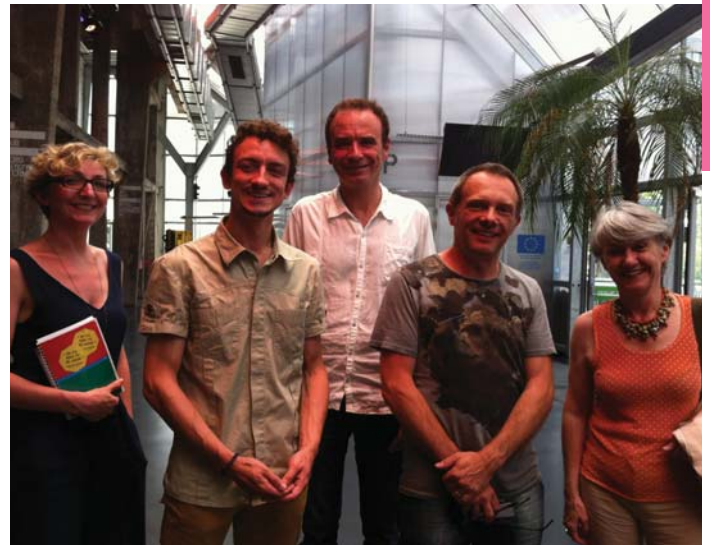
Thirty case studies produced as part of our Culture for cities and regions initiative are now available online. The case studies examine how culture can be a powerful tool to foster economic development, urban regeneration and social inclusion. They explore three themes:

- culture and creative industries as a catalyst for local economic development and urban regeneration
- cultural heritage as a driver for economic growth and social inclusion
- culture for social inclusion, social innovation and intercultural dialogue

Forty additional case studies will be added over the summer. Based on these 70 case studies, we have selected 15 cities and regions to host study visits. Nantes will host the first study visit in the series, which will take place on 16-18 September. Participants will focus on urban regeneration through cultural and creative industries, creative clusters and ecosystems, and creative entrepreneurship.

The call for participation in study visits is open until 9 July for the first five visits. These are to Nantes, Wallonia, Nord-Pas de Calais, Bologna and Dundee. A second call for participation will open in November for the remaining ten study visits.

Using your EUROCIITIES login and password, you can connect to the online forum. There you can ask questions, share information and interact with participants and consortium members.



Read the case studies and find out more about the study visits at the links below.

Pictured: the team preparing the Nantes study visit
 Catalogue of good practices: <http://bit.ly/1Tck0n9>
 Culture for cities and regions: www.cultureforcitiesandregions.eu
 ✉ Cécile Houpert cecile.houpert@eurocities.eu

Good practices on artists' residencies

The European Commission recently published a report on the conclusions of a working group of member state experts on artists' residencies. According to the report, artists' residencies typically offer accommodation, artistic coaching, production support and/or presentation facilities. The aim of the report is to highlight the value of these residencies and identify good practice examples.

It also looks at recent trends, benefits and success factors, in order to inform policy makers and practitioners of how best to support and develop artists' residency programmes in the 21st century.

A growing number of European cities are developing such programmes, which contribute to:

- strengthening the arts and cultural offer of a city, for citizens and tourists
- regeneration and social change – residency spaces act as a catalyst for businesses and contribute to the regeneration of areas

- community engagement - residency programmes create safe spaces and help reduce antisocial behaviour
- intercultural dialogue - cities with open, international outlooks ultimately attract inward investment, trade and economic activity

The study offers three main recommendations to cities:

- Relevant funding should be maintained as a priority, despite increasing pressure on budgets.
- Inclusion of artists' residency programmes in funding schemes should be advocated and sustained.
- Regions should include information on artists' residencies in promotional material for the locality, thus acknowledging their positive impact on regional/local/city profiles.

Report: <http://tinyurl.com/kk4mx9b>



Cities and local cultural organisations: new ways of cooperation and support

Ljubljana | 30 September–2 October 2015

Our next culture forum will focus on how cities support local cultural organisations. Over recent years, city administrations in charge of culture have had to adapt to new challenges, such as budget cuts and demographic changes, but also to new expectations from local cultural stakeholders. The latter now expect a different kind of support and city administrations are having to adapt to provide this. City administrations increasingly act as brokers and facilitators between local cultural organisations and external stakeholders, and are providing new support services.

In Ljubljana, we will explore these new trends and discuss how the role of city administrations could change in the coming decades. The five culture forum working groups will meet alongside the Ljubljana forum. The agenda and invitation will be circulated shortly.

✉ Julie Hervé: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

EDF working groups in Brussels & Antwerp



Our economic development forum working groups met in Brussels and Antwerp on 15-16 June. Summaries of the various meetings are given below. The presentations, minutes and working documents of these meetings can be found in our online members' area using the link at the bottom of the page.

WG branding management and city attractiveness

Our working group on branding management and city attractiveness discussed how city brands link up with regional brands. Members focused on examples of low budget-high impact initiatives. These include: voluntary ambassadors representing the city abroad; exchange of promotional campaigns between two cities; and asking companies to provide photos that the city can use free of charge. The group is looking to collect further examples.

WGs cohesion policy and metropolitan areas

Members considered the urban dimension of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) programmes for the current period 2014-2020, and discussed the preliminary results of our survey on this in small groups. They then discussed the Commission's own analysis of the implementation of article 7 of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with Eva Nussmüller of the European Commission's DG REGIO urban unit.

In a second session, participants talked about linking the ERDF and ESF (European Social Fund) to support employment. They considered how cities use both funds to support job creation and help people develop the right skills to match the labour market demand.

Several cities described how the ERDF and ESF are linked in their region or metropolitan area. This can be through integrated territorial investments (ITIs); urban operational programmes (OPs) - multi-fund programmes (ESF-ERDF); or an urban priority axis. We also carried out a survey on this topic, and we will use the results to feed into the EU institutions' analysis.

WG entrepreneurship & SMEs

Members discussed how cities can and are supporting entrepreneurial learning. They focused on how local authorities can foster the development of entrepreneurial mindsets. Below are three of the examples they shared:

- Gothenburg has developed an app to help young people gain new skills. The app was originally developed for use in schools in disadvantaged areas and is now being used by around 1,000 pupils.
- In Barcelona, the Professional Life Project provides workshops and guidance for teenage students, focusing on what it means to be an entrepreneur. The project draws upon the successful experiences of well known local entrepreneurs.

- Lisbon's Junior Code Academy offers computer programming classes to primary school students, in recognition of the fact that computer coding has been identified as a key competence.

The working group also developed a number of concrete recommendations for cities wishing to develop entrepreneurial learning.

WG innovation

Meeting in Brussels, members of our working group on innovation presented and discussed their experiences and examples of innovation ecosystems. Health, raw materials, nano technologies, agro-food, and energy efficiency are some of the main areas of innovation activity in our cities. While the areas of activity and projects being developed in cities vary, members agreed on the importance of companies, universities, research centres and public authorities joining forces on specific sectors to stimulate innovation.

WG international economic relations

Antwerp, the 16th century centre of the global economy, was a fitting location for our working group on international economic relations. Miranda Dawkins from European Commission DG Trade explained the state of play of the EU-US TTIP negotiations. She highlighted the potential benefits for cities and addressed some of our members' concerns. Edward Tersmette from DG GROW spoke about the EU for Growth programme, underlining opportunities for SMEs and cities.

Members learned about the strong relations cities have developed with other cities, universities and businesses in the US and around the world through the EU Missions for Growth.

They discovered how creative entrepreneurs and SMEs can become more international and how cities can use the knowledge acquired through these exchanges for the benefit of their citizens.

WG metropolitan areas

Our working group on metropolitan areas met to exchange information on current affairs in their cities and member states, and to discuss the project proposal on metropolitan cooperation on which they are currently working. Members also discussed a presentation given by Abel Schuman from the OECD, based on his recent research on metropolitan governance. The research finds that workers in larger cities are more productive and that good governance helps to maximise the benefits of agglomeration, and minimise the costs of agglomeration.



Documents (after login): <http://bit.ly/1BGwUf8>
 ✉ Marie Ranty: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

MEPs support binding 2025 air quality targets

On 15 July, MEPs in the European Parliament's environment committee voted in favour of binding emission reduction targets by 2025 within the National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive. This was one of our key demands as part of our work on the clean air package.

On 15 June at the Environment Council, EU ministers had also discussed the revision of the National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive.

The revised NEC Directive is part of EU efforts to halve the number of premature deaths caused by air pollution by 2030.

Several member states have requested that the European Commission add flexibility mechanisms to the proposal to ensure that the objectives are 'realistic and feasible', and that they take national specificities into account.

Progress has also been made on a number of other legislative files that aim to improve air quality. The Commission referred Belgium and Bulgaria to the EU Court of Justice on 18 June for failing to comply with the limit values on particulate matter (PM10), as set out in the Ambient Air Quality Directive. Currently, infringement actions for PM10 are open against 16 European member states, although Belgium and Bulgaria are the first cases to be brought to court.



Meanwhile, the Council presidency and Parliament reached agreement on 23 June on the proposed directive to limit emissions from medium-sized combustion plants. The agreed text introduces differentiated regimes for existing plants in order to reduce costs for the smallest ones. It also adds rules to the Commission proposal on monitoring the emissions of carbon monoxide.

Agreement on medium plants: <http://bit.ly/1df6g3>
Air quality infringement cases: <http://bit.ly/1kN1NRQ>
Environment Council conclusions on NEC Directive: <http://bit.ly/1IsF1LQ>
✉ Michael Klivenberg: michael.klivenberg@eurocities.eu

EU-China Urbanisation Partnership Forum



The EU-China Urbanisation Partnership Forum took place on 29 June in Brussels as part of the EU-China Summit.

High level delegations from China and the EU, together with representatives of cities, industry and stakeholders, met to exchange ideas and best practices on how to face urbanisation challenges whilst moving towards smart, inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Committee of the Regions hosted four high level thematic conferences throughout the morning, on: smart cities; sustainable urban mobility; climate change and the Covenant of Mayors; and sustainable cities. At the session on climate change and the Covenant of Mayors, participants discussed the future of this initiative. Cities were invited to present their partnerships with China and showcase

good practices they have developed for a sustainable urbanisation process.

European Commission president, Jean-Claude Juncker, and Chinese prime minister, Li Keqiang, were both present for the afternoon plenary hosted by the Commission. They shared their concerns about the challenges posed by urbanisation, but also encouraged deeper cooperation to promote greener, smarter and more sustainable development of European and Chinese cities. President Juncker said that cities are "closest to citizens and to their everyday preoccupations", while the Chinese prime minister encouraged "Europe to actively participate in China's development of low carbon cities, low carbon industrial parks, in the renovation of buildings for energy efficiency, the treatment of waste water and the development of clean energy".

The afternoon plenary was organised around three different roundtables focusing on investing in cities, sustainable urban mobility, and smart cities. Representatives from different Chinese ministries, Chinese and European city mayors, and representatives from banks and companies, participated in the various panels. They presented their experiences of partnering with each other, and of establishing new relationships and investment opportunities.

More information: www.euchinaurban.eu
✉ Matilde Chinellato: matilde.chinellato@eurocities.eu

Webinar on using ICT to deliver energy efficiency in cities

Webinar | 23 July 2015

The Covenant of Mayors Office is hosting a webinar on using ICT to deliver energy efficiency in cities. The webinar will take place on 23 July from 11.00 to 12.30.

The webinar, which is aimed at Covenant of Mayors signatories and coordinators, will present innovative ICT solutions to deliver energy efficiency. Such solutions can be integrated into the Sustainable

Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) developed and implemented by signatories. Webinar participants will find out more about our Green Digital Charter initiative and will hear from pioneering cities that are already achieving energy savings through ICT.

Registration and preliminary agenda: <http://bit.ly/1RS5swU>
More information on the Green Digital Charter: www.greendigitalcharter.eu
Claire Baffert: claire.baffert@eurocities.eu

A turning point for smart cities?

UK innovation charity NESTA recently published a study claiming that smart cities are at a turning point. Since the late '90s, the smart city label has been associated with the use of new technologies for more efficient city management, while boosting economic development and prestige. However, in many cases, while cities have focused on implementing the most technologically advanced solutions, citizens have wanted to know how this would really improve their everyday lives.

While there is no doubt about the central role of new technologies in transforming the way cities are run, there is a clear need to better involve citizens in shaping the future of their cities. As CY Yeng, director for corporate responsibility at Intel China, writes in the study's foreword: "...if the ultimate goal of cities is to ensure sustainable growth and make citizens happy and fulfilled, they have to adopt and develop tools that tap into the skills and knowledge of citizens. To do this we need to redefine smart cities as people-centred smart cities, or 'smart cities 2.0'".

But how will this work in practice? How can cities effectively harness the power of citizens through digital technologies? The study identified four emerging methods that are helping city governments to develop their smart cities:

- The collaborative economy: connecting distributed groups of people, and using the internet and digital technologies to make better use of goods, skills and space.
- Crowdsourcing data: people can use low cost sensors to measure and create crowdsourced maps; city governments can crowdsourcing data from social media sites in mobile phones.



- Collective intelligence: using digital tools to involve citizens in the decision making process (e-participation and e-democracy).
- Crowdfunding: people can connect with each other online; and city governments can use crowdfunding to make spending decisions that better reflect citizens' needs.

The report echoes our view that there can be no smart city without smart citizens. We believe there is a need to involve citizens in the entire process, not only as users of new technologies but as co-creators of ideas and solutions. This will be the focus of our next knowledge society forum meeting, in Rome on 27-30 October (see details below).

More information: <http://bit.ly/1BkURsq>
 ✉ Federica Bordelot: federica.bordelot@eurocities.eu

KSF autumn meeting

Rome | 27-30 October 2015

Rome will host our next knowledge society forum (KSF) on 27-30 October, with support from Fondazione Mondo Digitale. Manchester, the forum chair, will present and discuss a new smart city strategy and activity plan with members. Together with Rome, we are also organising a conference on 'Smart&Heart cities - social innovation and e-inclusion: improving skills for the knowledge economy' on 28 October. A draft agenda will be circulated shortly.



The 2015 edition of the International Global Junior Challenge (GJC) will take place alongside the KSF. The challenge is organised every two years by Fondazione Mondo Digitale, under the patronage of the Italian president, and is promoted by the city of Rome. Within the context of Italian Digital Agenda and Europe 2020, the GJC encourages young people and their teachers to use new technologies, exchange experiences, and learn from other successful initiatives. The GJC is open to associations, public and private institutions, cooperatives, schools, universities, companies and individuals of any age from around the world. Should you wish to promote the GJC within your cities, more information can be found at the link below. Projects can be submitted until 31 July.

GJC: www.gjc.it/2015/en/projects
 ✉ Federica Bordelot: federica.bordelot@eurocities.eu

CITYkeys workshop in Rotterdam

We organised a successful CITYkeys workshop in Rotterdam on 12 June, attracting 33 experts from the project partners, lighthouse projects, standardisation organisations, research institutes and cities.

To begin with, participants discussed cities and citizens' needs with regards to performance measurement, and considered how these could be translated into themes and sub-themes for key performance indicators. Triangulum and Remourban, both lighthouse projects, presented their methodologies and initial work on this topic.

Then independent research organisation TNO organised three practical exercises. Participants worked in teams to contribute their insights on: how to evaluate performance indicators; how to define these indicators; and how to measure the success of smart city projects.

More information: www.citykeys-project.eu
 ✉ Nikolaos Kontinakis: nikolaos.kontinakis@eurocities.eu

Promoting the GDC to Chinese cities

We presented our Green Digital Charter (GDC) at a sub-forum on smart cities during the EU-China Urbanisation Partnership Forum on 29 June.

Our presentation focused on the positive effects of networking cities. These can include: exchanging knowledge, creating synergies and economies of scale, easier replicability of solutions and creation of

trust. We proposed the creation of a network of Chinese cities that will act as a counterpart to the European GDC.

Link to the GDC presentation: <http://bit.ly/1HuFjCT>
 Green Digital Charter: www.greendigitalcharter.eu
 ✉ Nikolaos Kontinakis: nikolaos.kontinakis@eurocities.eu

New project on reducing traffic congestion



With a dynamic and innovative approach to research, the new CREATE (Congestion Reduction in Europe, Advancing Transport Efficiency) project will develop tailored advice and guidance to help local authorities deal with traffic congestion issues. The extensive experience of project partners, together with awareness raising activities and peer learning exchanges, will generate new ways for cities to transfer research from the lab to the street. The project consortium is made up of 10 European and Euro-Mediterranean cities; several universities (UCL, Sciences Po, Dresden University, BOKU); and an SME (INRIX).

CREATE aims to reduce traffic congestion in cities by decoupling car use from economic growth, and exploring solutions and alternatives. The project will carry out a qualitative and quantitative analysis of

transport-related measures and policies in cities; implement peer-learning activities and training sessions; and define knowledge transfer and exploitation actions.

The five Eastern European and Mediterranean cities (Adana, Amman, Bucharest, Skopje, and Tallinn) will work closely with the five Western European capitals (Berlin, Copenhagen, London, Paris and Vienna) to learn how to better cope with traffic congestion and adopt sustainable transport policies and measures. In parallel, the five Western cities will work together to explore future mobility options in the context of a growing urban population, and to look at how to better manage the transport system and reduce the overall need for citizens to travel.

Our role in the project is to facilitate exchanges between partner cities and link the project activities and results with the work of our environment and mobility forums.

A stakeholder engagement group is due to be set up in the coming months. The group will be composed of ten members, including seven EUROCIITIES members. It will provide experience and feedback to the consortium and will attend key project meetings. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Mélanie Leroy by 23 July.

The CREATE kick-off meeting will take place in mid-September in London. This will include a public launch event, open to all stakeholders, on 23 September.

✉ Mélanie Leroy: melanie.leroy@eurocities.eu

TEN-T Days 2015

The TEN-T Days 2015 in Riga on 22-23 June was one of the final events organised by the Latvian EU presidency. This high level conference gathered transport ministers from 12 European member states, as well as CEOs and over 1,000 transport stakeholders.

During the event, ministers of the countries concerned signed a declaration on the implementation of the Rail Baltic project, part of the North Sea Baltic Core Network Corridor.

Anrijs Matiss (pictured on left of photo), Latvian minister for transport, expressed satisfaction about the declaration. He said: "This project is an excellent example of cohesive infrastructure, connecting the major Baltic cities via the European standard gauge, paving the way for new mobility solutions for passengers and freight."

The main areas of discussion at this year's TEN-T Days were the challenges of the new trans-European network policy on innovative financing solutions. This aims to close the gaps between member states' transport networks, remove bottlenecks that hamper the functioning of the internal market, and overcome technical barriers.

Violeta Bulc (pictured on the right of photo), European transport commissioner, called for common engagement to make the TEN-T networks a reality: "I am counting on all actors, national and regional,



public and private, to make the best use of our instruments, such as the Connecting Europe Facility and the new European Fund for Strategic Investments."

A recent study on the Core Network Corridors, presented at the event, demonstrates the significant impact of EU investment in transport infrastructure, with positive effects lasting beyond the investment period, up until 2030.

Photo © EC Audiovisual
TEN-T Days: <http://bit.ly/1QmHqeG>
✉ Vanessa Holve: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Register now for EUROPEANMOBILITYWEEK 2015

Cities committed to promoting sustainable urban mobility are encouraged to take part in this year's EUROPEANMOBILITYWEEK (EMW). Participating cities will be asked which of the following three options they will be undertaking:

- Organising a week of activities under the multimodality theme: 'Choose. Change. Combine.'
- Implementing at least one new permanent measure contributing to modal transfer.

- Organising a car free day on 22 September.

Cities that are carrying out all three options are eligible to apply for the EMW Award.

The online registration system for EMW has been completely overhauled, making it easier to participate. Cities registering for the first time will be asked to sign up and provide information on their city and relevant local

government contact details. The registration form will be available in all EU languages.

All participants will be displayed on the EMW cities page, which receives an average of 17,500 visits a month.

Last year, 2,013 cities from 44 different countries participated in EMW. To be part of this year's EMW, visit the link below.

Register: www.mobilityweek.eu/join-us/registration
✉ Juan Caballero: juan.caballero@eurocities.eu

Debating asylum issues with MEPs



We shared cities' experiences of dealing with asylum and migration issues at the European Parliament's LIBE (civil liberties, justice and home affairs) committee meeting on 22 June.

We were represented by Marco Granelli, Milan's vice mayor for social cohesion and security, for an exchange of views with the rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs of the Parliament's own initiative report: 'A holistic approach to migration in the EU'. This follows the publication of our political statement on asylum in May, available at the link below.

Marco Granelli is very involved in managing the asylum crisis in his own city. He was joined by Caterina Sarfatti, also from Milan, who is vice chair of our migration and integration working group. This meeting was the first occasion that the Parliament has involved cities in its debates on migration and asylum.

Marco Granelli began by describing to co-rapporteurs Cécile Kyenge (Italy, S&D) and Roberta Metsola (Malta, EPP) how Milan is fulfilling its role as a frontline manager of migration flows. Since October 2013, 65,000 asylum seekers have transited through the city on their way to Germany, Sweden or the UK. Milan, left to find its own solutions to these challenges, has created its own reception network. This consists of 19 hubs providing shelter, care and information. The hubs are overseen by city staff, NGOs and volunteers. Milan has worked with the media to publicise its policies towards what they consider a humanitarian crisis. In the previous few days alone, 1,300 asylum seekers had used the city's reception centres.

Marco Granelli then spoke on behalf of EUROCIITIES, detailing the recommendations made in our statement on asylum. He insisted that cities must be involved at political level in the discussions surrounding the EU migration agenda, and that they should be given specific resources to play their role.

EUROCIITIES statement on asylum: <http://bit.ly/1PiPiRn>
✉ Thomas Jezequel: thomas.jezequel@eurocities.eu

Investing in job creation for young people

Our senior policy advisor, Silvia Ganzerla, took part in a panel discussion on investing in job creation for young people in Brussels on 25 June.

The panel discussion was part of the ETUC youth committee - YFJ conference on 'Quality job creation for young people: what, how and when?'.

Silvia Ganzerla was joined by: Ernest Urtasun MEP (ES, Greens/EFA); Tom Vandenkendelaere (BE, EPP); Azita Berar Awad, director of the employment policy department at the International Labour Organisation (ILO); and Zsolt Darvas, senior fellow at think tank Bruegel.

The panel focused in particular on where to invest for job creation, how to create quality jobs for young people, and ensuring that these measures are inclusive and sustainable.

ICTs, clean technologies and the green economy were some of the areas identified as having great job creation potential. The public sector, social, care and health sectors were also picked out as sectors with potential to create new jobs. Entrepreneurship and self-employment also offer opportunities for young people.

The panellists and audience very much appreciated the inputs we provided regarding the role cities play in creating job opportunities for young people. Our contribution raised new issues for the participating youth organisations, and attendees found it useful to hear concrete examples from the local level.

Green jobs for social inclusion: <http://bit.ly/1gej3TI>
EUROCIITIES declaration on work: <http://bit.ly/1lxVzDW>
✉ Silvia Ganzerla: silvia.ganzerla@eurocities.eu

Study visit on homeless people with multiple and complex needs

On 24-25 June, Nantes hosted a study visit on homeless people with multiple and complex needs. Nantes organised the visit as part of its involvement in our working group homelessness. This was an opportunity to share experiences on working with homeless people who do not respond to the standard interventions. This can be due to a combination of issues such as mental health illnesses, substance abuse, and disability, and others.

Representatives from Barcelona, Brighton & Hove, Brno, Gothenburg, Lisbon, Ljubljana, Nantes, Newcastle, Oslo and Vienna explored good practices and approaches to supporting this target group.

There were three site visits, to: 'La Halte de Nuit 44', a facility accepting homeless people who are unable to use other temporary or emergency accommodation due to

complex problems; '24 bis', which provides accommodation for up to 18 single people and ensures long term social stability; and 'La Baggagerie' (pictured), a secure facility for homeless people to store their belongings. Many participants were inspired by this last example, and expressed an interest in opening similar services in their own cities.

Dr Preben Brandt, who has carried out extensive research into the personal histories of homeless people, offered expert input during the study visit.

Nantes presented a plan for its '5 Bridges' project. This project is being developed in close collaboration with homelessness service users. It will merge a number of existing homelessness services together with social housing. It will offer services in one place and will guarantee 24/7 reception. Under the current set up, service users have to travel

around the city to access different services with conflicting opening hours.



More information: <http://bit.ly/1GThaSK>
✉ Paulina Banas: paulina.banas@eurocities.eu

Cities in action: Besiktas wellbeing service



Besiktas, a municipality of Istanbul, has a high proportion of older residents, more than double the Turkish national average. In order to address the specific needs of its older residents, Besiktas launched the 'wellbeing service' in January 2013.

The wellbeing service was set up on the basis of a survey carried out among older residents to assess their primary needs.

Many of their needs relate to services that may be easily accessible outside the home, such as hairdressing and nailcare, but can become a daily challenge for people who are less mobile.

The scheme now provides a full range of services in the home, including cleaning, personal care, home repairs and catering.

It also provides a social centre to encourage older residents to leave their homes and meet other people, for hobbies, courses, tours and concerts. This is particularly important as the survey revealed that on

average, older residents in Besiktas spend no more than 55 minutes outside their homes each day.

The range of services is complemented by a 'social alarm'. This electronic device allows residents to contact a call centre in an emergency, which can then organise an ambulance and contact relatives. The social alarm also allows users to request the services available as part of the wellbeing scheme, and as a third function, lets users contact relatives at the touch of a button.

The service, including the social alarm, is available to residents aged over 75, while the leisure house social centre can be used by anyone over 65. The wellbeing service is also available to residents who have a disability or who are disadvantaged, regardless of age.

The wellbeing service is a crucial tool for making Besiktas' large proportion of older residents feel safe, secure and comfortable. It allows them to live more independently than they would otherwise be able to, thus improving their quality of life.



Case study: <http://bit.ly/1RyCRID>
 ✉ Rose Montgomery: rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu

Tell the world how your city is making a difference - right now!

Find out: how Gothenburg worked with a South African municipality to improve its air quality; which municipality has experience of youth participation in Europe and Asia; and more, with the METROPOLIS Policy Transfer Platform.

The platform, managed by EUROCITIES member Berlin, is a global learning and networking portal for urban practitioners, experts and researchers.

The platform is part of the METROPOLIS initiative on city learning, which is led by Berlin.

Launched last October at the 11th METROPOLIS World Congress in Hyderabad, India, it allows users to find innovative case studies and relevant experts filtered by region, topic, objective, and policy instrument.

Users can create a personal public profile detailing their interests and expertise, and can use the platform to message peers and share local projects, to give them international visibility. The case studies are designed to focus on aspects that cities can adapt and learn from.

Berlin is encouraging other cities to share their projects, whether they are 'hidden gems' or have already received international recognition. Any city can participate, and the platform is open to anyone wishing to gain expertise, broaden their networks and share experience at international level with urban development experts.

For suggestions or feedback, please contact the platform managers at the address below; or use the link below to take a look at the METROPOLIS Policy Transfer Platform for yourself.

More information: policytransfer@metropolis.org
 Platform: www.policytransfer.metropolis.org

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EUROCITIES offers meeting rooms in an ideal location, a stone's throw from the European institutions. Special prices are available for our members.

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15-16

SEPTEMBER 2015

TIDE FINAL CONFERENCE BARCELONA, SPAIN

Transport Innovation Deployment
for Europe - the results
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SEPTEMBER 2015

URBAN DIALOGUES - MIGRATION & ASYLUM BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Organised in partnership with The
Centre, Brussels
<http://bit.ly/1HrQHzt>

20-21

OCTOBER 2015

EUROCITIES SOCIAL AFFAIRS FORUM BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Cities promoting inclusive labour
markets
<http://bit.ly/1e0jP51>

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

16-22

SEPTEMBER 2015

EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK EUROPE-WIDE

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12-15

OPEN DAYS 2015 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

OCTOBER 2015

Includes 'urban day' on 14 October
<http://bit.ly/1dFV664>

More events at: www.eurocities.eu

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