

IN THIS ISSUE

After a decade of fruitful work in promoting cooperation between public bodies of the European Union and Latin America, the URB-AL Programme is slowly winding up its activities. However, it will soon be embarking on new ones under the **forthcoming 2007-2013 programming period**.

The networks' last annual meetings were held early in the year. All the URB-AL networks have carried out their contracts with the European Commission. However, several networks have decided to pursue their area of activity with other sources of financing and their own resources. Others will carry forward the accumulated experiences of three years' work in the network in the form of B-type projects.

30 April was the deadline for the **last call for proposals for URB-AL projects**. However, several projects continue to develop and others have just begun activities. In this very edition, some coordinators share their experiences and progress.

To help new project coordinators to get their activities off to a good start the **URB-AL Programme Document Centre (CDPU)** organised an initial training course in Malaga. The second course will take place in Valparaíso in October. The CDPU team is compiling all the useful documents produced since the beginning of the URB-AL programme. The **EU-AL Observatory for Decentralised Cooperation** held its first conference in Montevideo and has published its first conclusions. Feedback from events will continue to come in.

RICCARDO GAMBINI

EuropeAid Cooperation Office – Head of Unit B2

NEWSLETTER OF URB-AL
PROGRAMME,
European Commission
horizontal decentralised
cooperation programme for
cities, urban centres and regions
of European Union
and Latin America



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EuropeAid
Cooperation office
Latin America Directorate



Pedro Marín (Ayuntamiento de Málaga), Fernando Cardesa (Director for Latin America in EuropeAid, the Cooperation Office of the European Commission), Gustavo Paulsen (Municipalidad de Valparaíso) and Marc Rimez (Manager of the CDPU in EuropeAid) during the session of closure of the training course of the CDPU.

JOINT PROJECTS SELECTED

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2005 – 31 OCTOBER (REFERENCE EUROPEAID/113113/C/G)

Coordination of joint projects

TYPE "A" JOINT PROJECTS			
Selected coordinator	Country	Project title	Project No
Comune di Udine	IT	Cómo construir un presupuesto participativo: transferencia de buenas prácticas en una perspectiva de intercambio recíproco	R9-A7-05
Municipalidad de Cotacachi	ECU	Impacto de los presupuestos participativos en ciudades multiétnicas y pluriculturales	R9-A8-05
Prefeitura de São Bernardo do Campo	BR	Os pobres negligenciados pela pobreza: situações de abrigo e desabrigo de crianças e adolescentes	R10-A16-05
Ayuntamiento de L'Escala	ES	La prevención de la exclusión en jóvenes y adolescentes en contextos urbanos mediante la promoción de la salud y de los factores resilientes	R10-A18-05
Prefeitura do Recife	BR	Orçamento participativo como instrumento de fortalecimento das mulheres na tomada de decisão	R12-A8-05
Provincia di Pescara	IT	La visión de género en la programación del gasto público	R12-A12-05
Intendencia Municipal de Colonia	URU	TECALE: Tecnología y ciencia aplicadas al desarrollo para gobiernos locales de América Latina y la Unión Europea	R13-A12-05
Ayuntamiento de L'Hospitalet de Llobregat	ES	Ciudades cívicas y seguras	R14-A10-05
Municipalidad de San Joaquín	CHI	Promoción de buenas prácticas de participación comunitaria en prevención del delito a nivel local	R14-A12-05
TYPE "B" JOINT PROJECTS			
Selected coordinator	Country	Project title	Project No
Municipio del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito	ECU	Las mujeres transformamos las ciudades. Servicios municipales de atención a mujeres	R12-B2-05
Diputación de Barcelona	ES	Centro de formación política MUJERY CIUDAD	R12-B3-05
Stadt Bremen	AL	European and Latin American Examples of Distance Cross-Curricular Learning in Science (X-Cross)	R13-B1-05

International Cooperation Prize for a URB-AL project



Pierre Samot, Mayor of Lamentin, receive the Prize of the International Co-operation.

On 6 April the French *Haut Conseil de la coopération internationale* (HCCI) awarded prizes to six international cooperation projects.

The HCCI has two principal aims: promoting regular consultations between international development cooperation players and raising public awareness of the challenges of this cooperation.

The Council awards an international cooperation prize to draw attention to and reward a number of exemplary projects.

This year the mayor of Le Lamentin (Martinique, France), Pierre Samot, received the prize for raising public awareness for the URB-AL Network 3 project "Democracy in towns: the participative budget applied to young people, a tool for municipal policies". The town of Le Lamentin will receive EUR 10 000 as well as the prize.

Towns and the information society

From 2 to 6 November Bremen hosted for the last time some 100 representatives of 50 towns in 18 countries at the second annual meeting of Network 13 “Towns and the information society”.

The coordinator of Network 13, Senator Willi Lemke, opened the meeting and emphasised the achievements of the three years of implementation of Network 13. He encouraged the participants to consolidate relations between Latin American and European towns and to take advantage of the meeting to prepare proposals for joint projects for submission to the last call in April 2006.

The European Commission was represented by Miguel Romero, URB-AL Project Manager in EuropeAid; he explained in detail the procedures and requirements for submitting project proposals.

After an exchange of views between the main speakers and other participants on various aspects of decentralised cooperation, Professor Friedrich Lehmann (Deputy Rector responsible for international relations at Bremen University of Applied Sciences) described the university, emphasising the international dimension of its activities thanks to an increasing number of cooperation agreements with universities all around the world.

Pedro Marín (coordinator of URB-AL Network 6) outlined the work of the Documentation Centre of the URB-AL Programme (CDPU), coordinated by the town of Málaga, which has the role of supporting the joint project coordinators in developing and managing their projects. Louise Lassonde (coordinator of the decentralised cooperation programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research – UNITAR) described the main features of the Decentralised Cooperation Programme, which provides training for local agents to enhance their capacity to implement international agreements and the Millennium Development Goals.

Luis Lozano’s update of the basic document – based on the replies of more than 40 members to questionnaires – was also distributed

to all the participants. This new version includes a clarification of the terminology used and an updated picture of progress in developing the information society in Latin America and the EU.

As in the previous annual meetings, there were workshops in four subjects corresponding to the main chapters of the updated basic document: government, people, enterprises and the urban environment.

Thanks to contributions from all the participants, six proposals emerged from these workshops for submission to the European Commission’s last call for proposals in April 2006. This annual meeting also offered towns that wanted to draft a proposal for a joint project a useful opportunity to exchange experiences and opinions with the coordinators of projects under way in Network 13. Their vast experience of project implementation was of help in improving the new proposals.

During the plenary session on the first day, the coordinators of the project proposals selected in the April 2005 call, presented

their projects and outlined the activities foreseen for 2006.

Within the framework of this annual Network 13 gathering a meeting was also held with the coordinators of other URB-AL networks (6, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14). The principal aim of this meeting was to exchange experiences and the results of work in the networks, and also discuss the future of decentralised cooperation between Latin American and European towns given that the second phase of the URB-AL programme was coming to an end.

The high level of participation and excellent results of the evaluation carried out by the Coordination Office once again demonstrated the commitment of the Latin American and European towns to promoting existing relations and stepping up decentralised cooperation between the two continents. The bonds created within Network 13 will certainly last after the end of the URB-AL programme. ■



Network 13. Pedro Marín (Coordinator of Network 6), Louise Lassonde (Coordinator for UNITAR), Willi Lemke (Senator for Education and sciences in Freie Hansestadt Bremen), Miguel Romero (URB-AL Programme Manager, EC).

MUNICIPALIDAD DE VALPARAÍSO

Second meeting to examine citizen safety in Latin America and Europe

From 5 to 7 October 2005, the second annual meeting of Network 14 "Citizen Safety in Towns" took place in Valparaíso with some 120 partners from towns in Latin American and European countries such as Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Uruguay, Spain, France, Italy and Portugal.

The aim of the meeting was to better inform network members and so find joint solutions to the problems of public safety within their communities. It was also a valuable opportunity to form strategic alliances between partners facing similar circumstances; these partners could share their experiences and jointly design alternative ways of strengthening their urban communities.

The network coordinator, Gustavo Paulsen, told the meeting that "our network has gained a place in the community of Latin American municipalities and become an essential reference point for citizens' safety issues at local level" referring to the occasion when Santa Cruz (Bolivia) hosted a meeting of 800 mayors, prefects and regional administrators (*intendentes*), and Network 14 acted as coordinator of the forum's citizen safety commission.

Gustavo Paulsen also introduced Network 14's second publication, "Town and Citizen

Safety in Latin America" which was designed to broaden the debate on some conceptual issues concerning citizen safety and also emphasised the leading role of local government in the prevention of delinquency and violence.

This second meeting opened with presentations by the Chilean justice minister, Chilean parliamentarians and the Mayor of Valparaíso, who described the Chilean experience and set out proposals for the next government. The Director of Foreign Policy and an EU representative also spoke.

Another proposal made at the meeting was to establish profiles of joint projects for submission to the European Commission's April 2006 call for proposals. The URB-AL methodology for the preparation of joint projects was used.

There was time for participants to take part in one of the four parallel workshops covering a variety of themes, including "urban configuration, public space and citizen safety", a workshop that focused on urban management and its links with citizens' safety; "intersectoral public policies" examining proposals to generate joint citizen safety projects linking up with other areas of public policy such as education, health and housing. Similarly, the "instruments and scope for action on citizen safety" work-

shop looked to produce proposals for projects on management tools and intervention areas for local government in the field of citizen safety. The fourth workshop discussed "community involvement in preventing crime".

As noted in the opening addresses, the work of these three days was designed to strengthen institutions close to the ground that have a better view of what is happening and are credible and flexible in implementing their programmes and initiatives; this support will ensure that the institutions have access to greater resources and the necessary powers to carry out their tasks because "the only successful experiences in reducing insecurity are those carried out in urban environments and towns".

The work accomplished during these days produced eleven profiles of joint projects, one of which was submitted for the last call for projects in April.



Network 14. Participants in the annual Meeting of Valparaíso.

Málaga hosts the last meeting of Network 6

The Mayor of Málaga, the Secretary-General of the Environment Ministry and the Director of EuropeAid were unanimous on the need to continue efforts to achieve environmental quality.

During this meeting there was a presentation of the Urban Environment Observatory (OMAU): "We must continue work to draw up guidelines for respecting biodiversity and environmental standards". With these words the Mayor of Málaga, Francisco de la Torre, inaugurated the fifth and last meeting of URB-AL Network 6. Once again, Málaga hosted the urban environment network. On 10 and 11 March more than 100 people from 54 European and Latin American towns met up in Málaga. Present at the opening were the Secretary-General for the prevention of pollution and climate change at the Spanish Environment Ministry, Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri, the Director of EU cooperation with Latin America, Fernando Cardesa, and the coordinator of the URB-AL Programme's Network 6, Pedro Marín.

Two papers stood out at the meeting. One presented by the Catalan architect and town planner, Manuel de Solà-Morales, dealt with "the city as a turning point", and another delivered by the Director of Barcelona's Urban Ecology Agency discussed the "concept of a new town planning that tackles the challenges of society today". Coordinators also reported on the latest progress in implementing Network 6 joint projects.

In his opening remarks Francisco de la Torre said that "Málaga is very happy to have worked with Network 6 and to have opened up avenues of cooperation that must continue because towns must respond to citizens' demands." The mayor noted that in the fight against pollution efforts had to be focused on a common objective. "All of us, the European Union, civil services, nations and local authorities, including civil society, have to make an effort that will leave a better-cared for environment to future generations."

Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri congratulated Málaga for both its leadership in promoting urban environment initiatives and the quality of the air. According to Aizpiri, the way to get

towns to pay more respect to the environment was ensure a more sustainable mobility, that is, "achieve a proper use of means of transport". The Secretary-General said that "efforts must be redoubled, beginning with towns, if we want to ensure health and long-term sustainability".

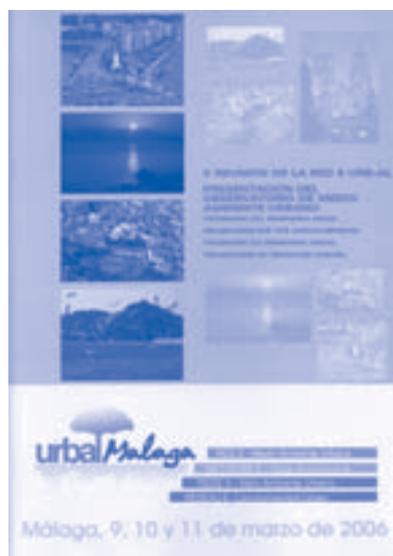
Fernando Cardesa was also satisfied with Málaga's participation in the URB-AL Programme's environmental initiative.

Pedro Marín made a positive assessment of Málaga's leadership role in the urban environment network and declared that Málaga was ready to continue this type of activity aimed at bringing about greater social cohesion.

Presentation of the Urban Environment Observatory. This bioclimatic building complying with the standards of sustainable architecture is the culmination of six years' work in URB-AL. The Mayor commented that, once operational, the OMAU "will be a very useful tool for sustainability" that will enable "a continual monitoring of the environmental quality of our towns".

Gonzalo Aizpiri also held up OMAU as a model to be followed by other towns, while Fernando Cardesa added that the Observatory was "yet another example of Málaga's capacity for initiative in using EU resources".

Pedro Marín explained that OMAU aspired to become "a centre for observation and analysis of all aspects of urban development" and that it would have a double function. On the one hand, it would have an important role in monitoring urban indicators of the environmental conditions of Málaga and its surroundings, and of European and Latin American towns that were members of the network. On the other, it would be a headquarters for continuing training in urban environment issues. ■



Network 6. Layer of the last meeting of the Network 6 URB-AL.

PREFEITURA DE PORTO ALEGRE

Local Financing and Participative Budgets

From 6 to 8 March 2006 the town of Porto Alegre organised the third and last seminar of Network 9, hosting 153 participants from 16 countries. The 69 towns, 64 local authorities and 24 external partners represented were a balanced mix from Latin America and the European Union.

The last meeting of Network 9 “Local Financing and Participative Budgets” was opened by the Mayor of Porto Alegre, Jose Fogaça, together with the coordinators of Network 9, Clóvis Magalhães (General Coordinator), César Busatto (Technical Coordinator), and Maria José Costa da Silva standing in for João Portella (Executive and Financial Coordinator).

They stressed the growing importance of towns on the international scene and the pacifist dimension to the decentralised cooperation to which the URB-AL Programme contributes. Maria Cristina Araújo, the European Commission’s representative in Brazil, underlined the programme’s positive contribution and the responsibility incumbent on those involved in the Programme.

For three days the seminar alternated between theory and practice. Theory came in the presentation of a study on participa-

tive budgets in Europe by Yves Sintomer, Professor of Sociology at the University of Paris VIII. This was followed by a debate that was fruitful thanks to both the European partners’ experiences of the old continent and the vision of the Latin American partners.

André Herzog and William Reuben of the World Bank then made a brief presentation on what had been identified by the Network 9 Adviser as one of the main challenges of participative budgets: sustainability. Later, Miguel Romero (Manager of the URB-AL Programme and Representative of EuropeAid), and Yves Cabannes (Adviser to Network 9) reported on the URB-AL programme, pointing out its achievements, specifically those of Network 9 in terms of databases, new forms of cooperation and its contribution to the international priorities of democracy and inclusion in the context of globalisation. The success of Network

9 is also reflected in the current number of partners: 407 members shortly before the official winding-up of its activities on 30 June (against 107 in April 2003).

The first day concluded with a practical illustration of Network 9’s work in the form of a presentation of several projects.

During the last two days of the seminar working parties discussed ideas for joint projects with a view to their submission for the last call of April 2006. Finally fourteen draft joint projects were drawn up with an eye to two principles: sustainability and qualification/systemisation of participative budgets. Details can be found on Network 9’s web page: <http://www.portoalegre.rs.gov.br/urbal>.

In closing the seminar, César Busatto, Miguel Romero and Yves Cabannes congratulated everyone on their contribution and stressed the need to continue and step up their work. Finally, César Busatto, speaking on behalf of the coordinators of Network 9, told European Commission representative Miguel Romero that Porto Alegre was committed to continuing the work of Network 9 in future. ■



Network 9. Maria José Costa da Silva (Executive and financial Coordination of the Network), Maria Cristina Araújo (Representing of the Delegation of the EC in Brasil), Clóvis Magalhães (General Coordinator of the Network), Fogaça (Mayor of Porto Alegre), Berfran Rosado (Deputy) and César Busatto (Technical Coordinator of the Network).

AYUNTAMIENTO DE MÁLAGA – MUNICIPALIDAD DE VALPARAÍSO

35 participants from 23 European and Latin American towns take part in the first course put on by the URB-AL Programme Document Centre (CDPU)

For three days (7 to 9 March) Málaga hosted the first training course run by the URB-AL Programme Document Centre (CDPU). Thirty-five municipal managers of joint projects from 23 towns of Europe and Latin America, represented by eight countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay) came to Málaga to take part in this course, which is one of the training activities planned for the CDPU, a pioneering project with the job of collecting and making available material on all the URB-AL projects approved by the European Commission.

This training course offered theoretical and practical tools to improve the participants' knowledge and skills in dealing with the rules and procedures for implementing type-A and B joint projects under the URB-AL Programme.

The course contents were organised into an introductory module setting out some core concepts and ideas concerning European Union–Latin America decentralised cooperation and five theoretical/practical units dealing with specific aspects of the rules and procedures at different stages of implementation of a joint project.

The course was based on the *Guía Práctica de normas y procedimientos para la ejecución de proyectos comunes A y B del Programa URB-AL*, published by the URB-AL Programme Document Centre.

This guide is available (in Spanish) on the Centre's website: www.centrourbal.com.

At the fifth annual seminar of Network 6, which continued on from the training course, there was a presentation of the CDPU, which is hosted by the Málaga Urban Environment Observatory (OMAU).

The CDPU is an interesting project that was proposed by the URB-AL network coordinators. It has three objectives:

1. to compile all the information about all the joint projects approved in the different URB-AL networks: the information will be collected and physically stored in Malaga and may also be consulted online thanks to the virtual platform;
2. to provide ongoing support and advice for current projects;
3. to identify and disseminate good project practices via manuals and seminars.

The CDPU also has a Latin American offshoot in Valparaíso (Chile), which will help to maintain direct contacts with the Latin American towns that have taken part in the various networks.

The project has the support of the University of Málaga, the CIDEU (*Centro Iberoamericano de Desarrollo Estratégico Urbano*) and Chile's Justice and Democracy Corporation.



URB-AL Programme Document Centre. Participants during formation.

DIPUTACIÓ DE BARCELONA – INTENDENCIA MUNICIPAL DE MONTEVIDEO

First Annual Conference of the Observatory of EU-LA Local Decentralised Cooperation

The Observatory of EU-LA Local Decentralised Cooperation, a project headed by the Diputació de Barcelona in association with Montevideo, FUNPADEM (Costa Rica), the University of Uruguay and the Foundation CIDOB (Spain), held its first annual conference in Montevideo from 28 to 30 March 2006 with the theme of “Challenges of Local Decentralised Cooperation”.

The main aims of the conference (www.conferenciamontevideo-ocd.info) were: to discuss the nature of decentralised cooperation between the European Union and Latin America; to help spread decentralised cooperation in Latin America by presenting the first results of work to collect and classify the data of the Observatory; to start analysing the possible impact on local capacity and democratic governance, on poverty reduction, and on efforts to bring about social cohesion and regional integration.

To achieve the initial objective, the conference, chaired by Tabaré Vázquez, President of Uruguay, was well attended. The profile of the participants reflected the desire to promote debate and have an impact on decision-making concerning decentralised cooperation: there were intendentes, mayors and other elected representatives, plus staff and experts from institutions working in decentralised cooperation. One of the main advantages of the big attendance was the diversity and wealth of the contributions, which provoked an exchange of ideas on the core components of decentralised cooperation, the challenges and its potential impact on Europe and Latin America.

One of the debates of the conference concerned the nature of decentralised cooperation and its specific features in relation to other forms of development cooperation. Two papers were presented as a springboard for debate: “EU-Latin America decentralised cooperation the challenges of the 21st century” by Klaus Bodemer, Director of the Hamburg Institute of Latin American Studies and “Characteristics of public decentralised cooperation: actors, contents and models” by Jean-Pierre Malé, Executive Director of the Observatory. These papers outlined the main processes that led to the

birth and development of decentralised cooperation.

As to the second aim of the conference, the first results of the process of collation and classification of the data on decentralised cooperation by the Observatory were presented. Notwithstanding the variety and number of agents involved, the Observatory had managed to carry out an important job of compiling the sources of information and links between local governments and Latin American and European regions. The Observatory had focused on an analysis of public decentralised cooperation, namely direct relations between local and regional governments of both regions, since this form of cooperation has specific features that regularly give rise to horizontal and reciprocal relations, breaking away from the traditional relationship between donors and beneficiaries.

For the third objective, analysis of the impact of decentralised cooperation, special attention was paid to three areas: building local capacity and governance; poverty reduc-

tion and improved social cohesion, and regional integration. A number of experts drew up studies to stimulate the debate on these subjects in the three workshops that were held.

The political and institutional nature of direct relations among subnational governments means that the impact of decentralised cooperation goes beyond the three areas mentioned above; it has potential to strengthen the local dimension in national and regional planning, make local government more visible in the international arena and have a significant impact on public opinion around the world.

In conclusion a political declaration was drawn up to underline the importance of decentralised cooperation as an instrument for strengthening the capacity of the local and regional governments and so making public policy on issues affecting local citizens more effective. ■



Observatory of EU – LA Local Decentralised Cooperation. William Hanna, Head of the Delegation of the EC in Uruguay, Ricardo Erlich, Intendant of Montevideo, Jordi Labòria, Deputy, Delegated of the President of Diputació de Barcelona and Tabaré Vázquez, President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay.

Ville d'Issy-les-Moulineaux: e-AGORA, between practice and theory, a vision of electronic democracy

The project e-AGORA, "the E-democracy Academy", looks for alternative and innovative ways to strengthen and revitalise local democracy using information and communications technologies (ICT).



Issy-les-Moulineaux. Participants in the project.

E-AGORA is a type B project and is a follow-up to Network 3: "Democracy in towns". The protagonists of the project are those who interact daily to produce democracy at the local level: citizens, municipal councillors and local governments.

The French town of Issy-les-Moulineaux near Paris coordinates this initiative whose members include the Brazilian towns of Ipatinga and Juiz de Fora, Viña del Mar (Chile), Frameries (Belgium) and an external partner, the Territorial Observatory of São Paulo University.

There are two parts to e-AGORA: (i) the experimental work proper, and (ii) training. The experiments are designed taking into account the political and social circumstances with the aim of introducing or stepping up the use of ICT as a means of promoting public participation. These closely controlled and monitored tests make it possible to evaluate the impact of using the internet and mobile phones in addition to more traditional means.

It was hoped that the use of ICT resources would facilitate and increase citizens' con-

trol over civil servants and legislators, so making local democracy more transparent, informing public opinion and increasing participation in the decision-making process. This would open up alternative ways of revitalising local democracy.

The training component, carried out by Professor Leonardo Avritzer of the Federal University of Minas Gerais in association with the project e-AGORA, was designed, constructed and finally implemented thanks to the platform for distance learning offered by Brazil's Ministry of National Education. It had also the support of Professor Alexander Trechsel of the e-Democracy Centre of Geneva University and the European Institute in Florence (Italy). The master's course in "local e-democracy and new forms of governance" attracted 150 students from member or associate towns in Latin America, Europe and Africa. Training was provided in three languages: Portuguese, Spanish and French, by teachers from Brazil, Argentina, France and Switzerland. This experience not only helps strengthen relations between academia and society but also trains novices and experts in e-democ-

racy so that they can play a part in the process of transformation that will strengthen participatory democracy.

The e-AGORA project is the subject of a White Paper "E-AGORA, the Academy of Electronic Democracy: Reflections and Prospects" in which various authors describe the efforts of each member town to increase public participation thanks to adequate technical support. The general context in which e-democracy is currently practiced is also defined, highlighting a development towards what can be called "governance". The paper also shows the fundamental role of e-democracy in local practice, through the identification of strategies, limits and restrictions, and offers food for thought and action. ■

Città di Torino: Boulevard. Paths to Health. Centres to Promote Health and Active Citizenship

This project, coordinated by Città di Torino (Italy), proposes the setting-up in each of the participating towns of a Municipal Health Promotion Centre for the primary prevention of risks related to unhealthy behaviour and life styles.

The Municipal Health Promotion Centre is a public space run directly by the town council which brings together the experiences of the public health service, universities, vocational schools, cooperatives and private associations (NGOs) operating in the field of health and primary prevention.

The Centre is multifunctional and offers activities to inform, train and raise the local community's awareness about health issues. They include the organisation of conferences, courses and workshops for both local people and those involved in promoting health (formally and informally); the organisation of thematic exhibitions on aspects of individual and collective health drawing on multimedia instruments and documentation, plus contacts with experts and neighbours on these issues.

The project members are the towns of Bilbao (Spain), Rosario (Argentina), Montevideo (Uruguay), Ate (Peru) and the NGO Inpades (Trelew, Argentina).

The decision to open a centre to disseminate information and provide training in subjects relating to individual and collective health protection arose from the identification of needs among specific segments of the population, both in Europe and in Latin America. The targets were the elderly, adult women, young people and children residing in the towns taking part.

The opening of the Municipal Health Promotion Centre is stimulating a number of processes at local level, such as joint health projects between the town council, the health service, universities, training bodies

and neighbours. It is also giving local people greater access to information about healthcare for themselves and their families or reference groups.

The activities run by the project use participatory methodologies that keep the users at the heart of the process. These are active methods that encourage those to whom the health strategies are addressed to take ownership of the subject and contribute actively with their own experiences to the learning process. People share information and work together under the guidance of experts to solve common problems.

The use of participatory methods also gives the participants in courses and workshops a framework of skills and knowledge that they can use in any situation, and a space they can use to explore different subjects and act on them. Experience has shown that when all the participants contribute to the learning process people are more likely to realise that the solutions belong to them and to develop responses more appropriate to the context.

The courses, workshops and conferences encourage the participation of neighbours with different background and experiences. The participation of people from a neighbourhood, town, region and from other countries or continents enriches the experience and generates many occasions for personal exchanges and personal growth.

For more information:
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Torino. Participants in a Seminar of the project.

RIO B: Inauguration of the Integrated Waste Management System in Santa Cruz (Galapagos Islands)

This meeting on 4 to 7 April 2006 marked the conclusion of the "Rio B" project, which was implemented between 2004 and 2006 in follow-up to the A project "Waste recovery in oceanic islands".

The towns of Karlsruhe (coordinator), Heiderberg, Arucas, Santa Cruz, San Andres-Coralina, and Lima took part in this project, the aim of which was to establish an integral waste collection system so that waste could be separated at origin in both homes and commercial and health establishments.

Islands of volcanic origin usually have scant vegetal cover and this prevents the subsoil being used for burying waste given the proximity of the rock. But the steady rise of tourism has considerably increased waste in a very vulnerable ecosystem, which in turn has created the need not only to devise integrated waste collection systems but also to regulate land-use management and the planning of urban areas and other environments incompatible with the natural ecosystem.

The Santa Cruz council, the Galapagos Foundation and the National Park began in 1998 to take the first steps to tackle a problem that is increasingly affecting the natural ecosystem: with the growth rate of the resident population at 7% per year, the number of inhabitants has risen from 5 000 in 1990 to 15 500 in 2006, while over the same period annual tourist numbers rose from 30 000 to 120 000 at present.

Adding to the problems provoked by land waste, which is usually transported to the continent, is that of the industrial waste produced by the many boats moored off Puerto Ayora to transport tourists around the islands. The waste problem may become a danger for a very vulnerable ecosystem and exceed the sustainable load capacity for the combination of fauna, flora, resident population and tourists.

The renovated *Centro Fabricio Valverde* houses the new infrastructure created on the island of Santa Cruz with space for each type of waste: organic (50%), recyclable (40%), non-recyclable (9%) and medical (1%). Next to the centre, 1.5 hectares have



Dirk Vogeley, person in charge for the project and Pedro Marin, person in charge for Network 6, beside one of the trucks of collection of waste.

been levelled for the production of compost.

Part of the Centre started operating last year, including the production of blocks from glass and the Information Centre, which illustrates to residents and tourists the benefits of a clean Santa Cruz as a way of protecting the fauna and flora of the Galapagos.

The completed Integral Waste Centre is a pioneering infrastructure in Latin America, and possibly a model pilot project of the URB-AL Programme. In this project the participation of both the local population and companies and organisations interested in maintaining the balance between economic development and the ecosystem has been very important. It should not be forgotten that the population of Santa Cruz, Saint Cristóbal and Isabela have often been relegated to second place, with all attention focused on preserving an ecosystem unique in the world, and that this conservation effort has absorbed a great deal of money

relative to the population's quality of life in terms of infrastructure and equipment

However, the innovations in waste management have not solved all the environmental problems in this natural reserve of the planet since the distribution of drinking water and the collection of sewage are complicated by the volcanic structure. They are thus candidates for future projects. ■

Mancomunidad TajoSalor: “Processes to empower and promote the public participation of women”

We are in Santa Cruz, the richest territory in Bolivia, to witness a meeting to empower and promote the public participation of women.

We are seeing women who, beaten down by injustice, forgotten among the forgotten, unrecognised even in their own America, are rebelling after generations and believe that everything can change and improve with the development of the culture of a community and the support of a social project. Another way of looking at life.

And many, some, think that change must, by right, come to those who have been sidelined historically by patriarchal domination. They want to give a voice to those who do not have one, develop their capacity to make their demands, intervene in the public sphere

and take action in the decision-making processes to bring about equality and equity between men and women. They want recognition of the equal importance of women and men in society and for differences not to be a pretext for a structure where men dominate women.

Different backgrounds cohere and elements emerge that assure the project's success; everyone gains from the results since empowered women empower those around them.

We appreciate that wisdom, highly developed arts and people's sensitivity do not depend on material growth and enrichment; they come from the essence of human beings. We follow the faces of the artists; the simplicity, sobriety and majesty of what they do, the density of the forest and, above all, the magnificent tones of unknown



TajoSalor. Participants in a meeting.

baroque, young artists reproducing with virtuosity creations of blood and artistic forebears or just art, but always with virtuosity, the voices of women telling their stories and the sounds of the forest. Night, on a red earth path after the rain has stopped, is offering us another concert, that of nature.

Municipalidad de Riobamba: “Diagnosis of the impact of migration from different contexts and its effects on citizens' safety”

The local governments of Calama (Chile), the Regione Toscana (Italy), Junín (Argentina), Vila Royal de Santo Antonio (Portugal), Quito and Riobamba (Ecuador) decided to diagnose and analyse the causes of public insecurity generated by migration. They want to give a picture of the current situation in their towns and propose new policies for citizens' safety that are directly related to migration.

The project “Diagnosis of the impact of migration from different contexts and its effects on citizens' safety” aims to determine the causes of migration-related civic insecurity and the links with the various levels of development between countries and regions, especially border areas. Over the

last few decades, migratory flows have been directly linked to the crises of democracies and the lack of personal safety.

The social and economic costs of immigration are very obvious when the population movement is massive and involves low-skilled labour. In such cases the reception labour market is disrupted and there are tangible effects such as unemployment, reduced earnings, regressive redistribution of income and precarious and illegal working conditions. These provoke delinquency and civic insecurity. In addition, the conditions in which illegal immigrants arrive in a city tend to generate criminal behaviour.

The project is run by local actors, principally municipal teams of each partner town. Using the Comparative Diagnosis they are able to offer new policies and more pertinent solutions for the specific situation of their towns in relation to citizens' safety directly related to migration.



Riobamba. Session of opening of a meeting of the project.

Implementation of the project has already generated several activities such as the gathering of information; the creation of the project's web page (www.urbalriobamba.com); a preliminary diagnosis and the social analysis of the preliminary diagnosis in the first virtual workshop.

The main activities are carrying out studies and research to identify civic insecurity as an effect of the emigration and immigration of the inhabitants of each of the partner towns through surveys and dialogues with citizens.

Comune di Roma: “New forms of poverty: overcoming them is a question of method”

“Practicar-Laboratory of practices for strengthening local public policies to combat the new urban poverty” is a project that was developed in the framework of Network 10 and is coordinated by Roma in association with 15 towns.

The overall aim is to develop instruments and disseminate “good practices” that will strengthen public policies to combat the new forms of urban poverty in a framework uniting research and action.

In the diagnosis phase, the partners compared and identified the characteristics of the phenomenon and the policies implemented. They have shown how the phenomenon of the “new poor”, a phenomenon that is

common to different places on both continents, cannot be considered a marginal problem: the new poverty increases social exclusion in the urban environment and, if not tackled, will add to “structural” poverty.

The methodology proposed by Practicar and its group is a participatory one in which each partner makes its contribution to implementing the objectives through an equal and reciprocal exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Local participation has been promoted and the socio-economic actors and associations working in the field and the beneficiaries of the initiatives have been able to contribute to the debate. The participation of the beneficiaries in situations of new urban poverty is fundamental since this phenom-

enon is characterised by a lack of relational goods following the loss of the social status.

The participatory methodology was laid down during 40 local meetings between European and Latin American partners that identified possible innovative ways of fighting the new urban poverty. The results of this very wide consultation will be published in “Líneas – guías para la aplicación de instrumentos y buenas prácticas de lucha contra la nueva pobreza urbana”, an important instrument by and for local institutions, that ensures that information is within the reach of all.

Practicar is meant to be a reproducible project, embodying a vision of cooperation that brings long-term shared and participatory results. ■

Intendencia Municipal de Tacuarembó: “New technologies as a support for social emancipation”

The project’s partners are the public administrations of Miraflores and Chorrillos (Peru), San Joaquín (Chile), Tacuarembó, Rio Negro and Montevideo (Uruguay), Castillo de Locubín (Spain), Frameries and Brussels (Belgium) and the Italian NGO ISCOS.

The aim of the project is to find innovative ways of using new technologies to improve the quality of life of people living in conditions of social exclusion. The beneficiary groups were selected by each partner town; the common criteria were social exclusion and a situation of social risk owing to economic, educational or ethnic vulnerability.

The principal activities are investigating the needs, wishes and aptitudes of the target groups, technical counselling, seminars among the partners, installation of telecentres in each town, training in teleworking for municipal staff and the target

population, and the publication of a final guide (<http://www.tacuarembó-urb-al.gub.uy>).

From December 2005 telecentres were set up in all the partner towns, there being different solutions for the target populations in each of them. For example, Tacuarembó, where the chosen target population were drop-outs from the badly-resourced formal educational system, has run a basic course in computer science for 300 young people who after this training will be introduced to teleworking and trained in more advanced computer programmes offering them job possibilities.

Frameries chose as its target population unmarried mothers from immigrant communities and implemented a training programme organised into different modules. They set an entry test to evaluate the level of skills and then they use a specialised pedagogy to integrate each into the group and develop at their own pace. They also organise collective meetings in order to make them aware of the importance of ICT as a tool for finding work.



Tacuarembó. Young people take part in a computer course.

In March 2006 distance training in teleworking began for the municipal staff. This training will permit each town council to have a technical group trained in teleworking and online job hunting. The aim is to set up in each town council a permanent advice service for individuals and also for the labour exchanges and enterprise development units run by the councils. ■

PROJECTS

Over 112 joint projects have concluded their activities under the 13 networks of the first and second phases of the Programme

Over 112 projects for exchanging experiences have concluded their activities under the networks of the two phases, including 9 Type “B” projects.

In the second half of 2005 and the first half of 2006, 27 joint projects concluded their activities.

Coordinator	Country	Project number	Project title
Alcaldía del Municipio de Sucre	VEN	R4-P6-02	Crear Modelos de Gestión Turística de Agroindustria Artesanal en los Municipios
Intendencia Municipal de de Montevideo	URU	B5-P1-02	Políticas Sociales Urbanas: una propuesta para la integración social en áreas centrales
Comúne di Roma	ITA	R6-A6-03	Nuevos modelos de desarrollo urbano por la valorización del patrimonio ambiental y cultural
Comune di Arezzo	ITA	R6-A7-03	Mejorar el impacto de la gestión de los desechos sólidos y urbanos en términos de reducción de los gastos socio-económicos y de respeto por el medio ambiente
Ville de Marseille	FR	R7-P8-02	Stratégies de transformation des sites portuaires délaissés, interfaces et intermédiaires entre la ville et le port
Ayuntamiento Donostia – San Sebastián	ES	R7-A1-03	Sistema de información para la Gestión urbana
City of Graz	AUT	R8-P2-02	CULTURA: The design of a new mobility culture through mobility management, awareness measures and campaigns including information and education with the aim of changing mobility behaviour and enforce use of more sustainable modes of transport in urban areas
Alcaldía de Cartagena de Indias	COL	R8-A1-03	Accesibilidad al transporte público de las personas con movilidad reducida
Prefeitura de Jacareí	BR	R10-A10-03	Instrumentalizar as localidades para o combate à pobreza
Prefeitura de Belo Horizonte	BR	R10-A11-03	Inclusão Social através de Políticas Intersetoriais
Ayuntamiento de Málaga	ES	R10-A4-04	Análisis de indicadores sociales desde una perspectiva territorial
Municipalidad Distrital de Independencia	PER	R12-A3-03	Autodeterminación de las mujeres a través del empleo local
Municipio metropolitano de Quito	ECU	R12-A6-03	Construyendo ciudades incluyentes. Promoción de la equidad de género en la gestión local
Ville d'Issy-les-Moulineaux	FR	R3-B1-03	e-AGORA, l'Académie de la e-démocratie
Ayuntamiento de Irun	ES	R4-B4-03	Alianzas público privadas para el desarrollo económico local OBSERVA.NET
Odense Kommune	DK	R5-B5-03	Centro regional potenciador para Mujeres Emprendedoras y Trabajadoras
Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart	GER	R6-A3-03	Rehabilitación de Áreas Contaminadas para el Desarrollo Sostenible Interno de la Ciudad – REDESC
Ayuntamiento de Málaga	ES	R6-B1-03	Observatorio de Medio Ambiente Urbano
City of Karlsruhe	GER	R6-B3-03	Sustainable waste management for oceanic islands-Extension & transfer
Municipalidad de Bahía Blanca ARG	ARG	R7-P1-02	Impacto del crecimiento del sector industrial químico y petroquímico en la gestión urbana de ciudades portuarias
Consell Comarcal de l'Alt Empordà	ES	R10-A7-03	La administración local como garante de atención de los adultos mayores y generadora de nuevos y acimientos de empleo
Prefeitura Rio Grande da Serra	BR	R10-A8-03	Manual de políticas de saúde para o combate à pobreza e a melhoria da qualidade de vida
Comune di Roma	IT	R10-A3-04	Laboratorio de prácticas para el fortalecimiento de las políticas públicas locales de lucha contra la nueva pobreza urbana
Municipalidad de Villa María del Triunfo	PER	R10-A10-04	Pobreza extrema y hambre: respuestas participativas desde los gobiernos locales
Ayuntamiento de Irun	ES	R12-A4-03	Observatorio – EALNET
Mancomunidad TAJOSALOR	ES	R12-A2-04	Procesos de empoderamiento y participación ciudadana en las mujeres
Municipalidad de Calama	CHI	R14-A2-04	Elaboración e aplicación de una estrategia de intervención que aborde la delincuencia juvenil desde una mirada multicausal

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