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DIRECTORATE GENERAL IB

External Relations: Southern Mediterranean, Middle East, Latin America, South and South-East Asia and North-South Cooperation

Directorate for Latin America



URB-AL / INFO



Information circular No 3

February 1997

The URB-AL programme in brief

Objective:

To develop a direct and lasting partnership between local participants in Europe and Latin America.

Activities:

- *eight thematic networks of mutual interest, which will give rise to various joint projects cofinanced by the Commission.*
- *two biennial political and technical meetings between mayors and representatives of towns in Europe and Latin America.*

Participants:

Towns, regions and other local authorities in the European Union and Latin America.

Duration: *four years.*

Present situation regarding the programme

The biennial meetings

The first biennial meeting is to be held in Lisbon on 12 and 13 June 1998. The town council of Lisbon has proposed discussing the theme of "Urban Renewal". The High-level Technical Committee has been asked for its opinion. The second biennial meeting should be held in Latin America.

The thematic networks

1. "Towns and drug problems", coordinated by the town of Santiago de Chile

- **Dates:** The opening seminar is to be held from 10 to 12 November 1997.
- **Theme:** The role of local authorities in drug abuse prevention and the reintegration of drug addicts.
- **Progress:** Drafting of the basic document is under way. Towns and local authorities interested are asked to contact the town of Santiago.
- **Contact:** Mr Carlos Varas, Director para las Relaciones Internacionales
Alcadía Santiago de Chile - Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales
Casilla 52-D - Santiago / Chile
Fax: +56 2 6333927

2. "Conservation of urban historic contexts", coordinated by the Province of Vicenza

- **Dates:** February 1998 - dates to be specified.
- **Theme:** Conservation of urban historic contexts.
- **Progress:** The province of Vicenza is preparing a technical and financial proposal which it will shortly put to the Commission.
- **Contact:** Ms Manuela Dal Lago
Vice Presidente della Provincia di Vicenza e Assessore alla Cultura e ai Beni culturali
Amministrazione Provinciale di Vicenza
Contrà Gazzolle, 1
I-36100 Vicenza (Italia)

The External Secretariat

The provisional Secretariat has been operational since 15 November 1996. Its activities are focused on promotion and information and the implementation and monitoring of the operations covered by URB-AL. In addition this *separate* support structure organises, develops and administers the programme's database, and it is run by two people: Heloísa Passareiro, director, and Chantal Jacquot, information expert.

Address: 21, rue des Drapiers, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32 2 5102312 et 5102515
Fax: +32 2 5102647.

The invitation to tender for the setting-up of the definitive External Secretariat was published in the "S" series of the Official Journal on 31 December 1996. The deadline for expressions of interest was 3 February 1997. The Commission is at present examining the tenders and the shortlisted firms (or groups of firms) will very shortly receive the specifications so that they may submit a detailed tender. These tenders will be evaluated by a selection committee in accordance with standard Commission procedure.

The first meeting of the High-level Technical Committee

As stated in Information Circular No 2, the High-level Technical Committee (HTC) held its first meeting in Brussels on 11 December 1996.

<i>PARTICIPANTS:</i>	<i>Members of the Committee</i>	<i>European Commission</i>
	Ms Maria Luisa Cerrillos	Mr José Miguel Anacoreta Correia
	Mr Hector Dada Hirezi	Mr Jérôme Poussielgue
	Mr José Emilio Patricio Rodé	Mr Fernando Truyols
	Ms Cornelia Poczka	
	Mr René Schoonbrodt	<i>Provisional Secretariat</i>
	Mr Jaime Torres Lara	Ms Heloísa Passareiro
<i>Excused</i>	Mr Manuel Camacho Solis	
	Mr Hugues de Jouvenel	

The following items were on the agenda of this first meeting: analysis of the role and operation of the HTC; informing the members of the HTC of the present state of the programme and discussion of the themes likely to be dealt with in the URB-AL networks in order to draw up a list to be put to the Commission for approval.

The meeting focused mainly on the choice of priority themes for the networks. After a wide-ranging exchange of views, the members of the Committee drew up a list of six themes, which was given to the Commission.

<i>Network themes</i> <i>Proposal by the High-level Technical Committee</i>	
Network No 3	Democracy in towns
Network No 4	The town as a promoter of economic development
Network No 5	Urban social policies
Network No 6	Urban environment
Network No 7	Management and control of urbanisation
Network No 8	Urban mobility

The need to take into consideration the specific problems of the regions and small towns was also stressed, in view of the importance attached to them by certain Member States.

The next HTC meeting is to be held in Brussels on 16 May 1997.

Calls for proposals for the thematic networks

Calls for proposals will be issued for the six networks, for which the themes were worked out at the HTC meeting, and they will be published in the “S” series of the Official Journal.

Calls for proposals for the three networks listed below will be launched in mid-March (the exact date will be announced on the Internet):

- *Network No 3:* **“Democracy in towns”**.
- *Network No 4:* **“The town as a promoter of economic development”**.
- *Network No 5:* **“Urban social policies”**.

Guide for Applicants

Practical details for participation in the programme, and application forms, will be published in the *Guide for Applicants*. This document, which is at present being compiled, will be available at the beginning of May.

The objective of the *Guide for Applicants* is to define the rules. The details of how the programme operates are clearly described, since it is supposed to serve as a vade-mecum for potential partners in URB-AL activities. The reader will find a brief summary of the Guide below.

By way of introduction, it is essential to note that the networks will be introduced in two stages:

- ◆ Stage I Setting-up and organisation of the network.
- ◆ Stage II Setting-up and implementation of joint projects.

Stage I: Setting-up and organisation of the network

Possible partners:

- ◆ Towns and local authorities in the 15 Member States of the European Union.
- ◆ Towns and local authorities in the 18 eligible Latin American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela).

Number of network partners:

- ◆ Provisional: when the call for proposals is launched, the towns concerned will be requested to set up a network comprising at least two European (EU) partners and three Latin American (LA) partners, and to explain how they intend to assemble the required number of definitive partners.
- ◆ Definitive: the ten shortlisted coordinator towns will be required to present a network comprising between 50 and 150 partners:
 - ⇒ minimum 20 EU partners & 30 LA partners;
 - ⇒ maximum 60 EU partners & 90 LA partners.

Selection criteria:

In addition to their eligibility, the financial, technical and professional capacities of the candidates are taken into consideration.

Activities:

- ◆ Main tasks involved in organising the network.
Setting-up of a coordination office for managing communication between members of the network. Organisation of working meetings between partners. Setting-up of a pool of experts responsible for drawing up the basic document on the network theme.
- ◆ Main tasks involved in organising the seminar.
Drawing up, publishing and disseminating the basic document on the network theme. The logistics of the seminar...

The above list serves merely as a general indication: the *Guide* will contain specific chapters giving a full description of the tasks.

Budget and duration:

The Commission's contribution may not exceed 70% of the total budget for the organisation of the seminar and the network. This means that the partners must provide a minimum contribution of 30%. The ceiling for the Community contribution has been set at ECU 350 000.

Duration of the activities covered by EC financing: three years.

Stage II: Setting-up and implementation of joint projects

Joint projects will be conducted within the framework of the thematic networks. Priority will be given to members of the networks but new partners may also take part. The number of partners may vary from five to 25:

- ⇒ minimum two EU partners and three LA partners;
- ⇒ maximum ten EU partners and 15 LA partners.

The detailed conditions governing participation in a joint project and the details of how to draw up and make a joint application are set out in the *Guide for Applicants*. The activities covered by a joint project will relate to the following:

1. Development of local authorities' structural capacities.
2. Making municipal operations more visible.
3. Cooperation between local authorities and civil society (enterprises, associations, etc.).
4. Strengthening the role of local communities in development.
5. Exchanges of experts.

The proposals for joint projects must be structured in accordance with the instructions contained in the *Guide for Applicants* (see above). They will be presented on the application forms included in the Guide and will contain the following:

- ⇒ Lists of participants and letters of intent.
- ⇒ Objectives and activities.
- ⇒ Project management.
- ⇒ Impact of the project.

Projects will be selected on the following basis:

- ⇒ Eligibility of the partners.
- ⇒ Compatibility of the objectives with the network theme.
- ⇒ Existence of effective and balanced cooperation between partners.
- ⇒ Financial and technical viability.
- ⇒ Impact and sustainability.

The financing of the joint projects is subject to specific rules. The Commission may finance up to 50% of the total budget of a joint project, with a ceiling specified in the application form, depending on the type of activity. The maximum ceiling is ECU 50 000 per project.

Since the total budget for joint projects in each of the networks is ECU 700 000, there will be a minimum of 20 projects by network, it being possible to finance certain projects from other available funds.

Further information:

Information Circular No 4 will be issued in May 1997. If you wish to subscribe and/or receive more information on the URB-AL programme, please contact the provisional Secretariat at the address given above.

All issues of **URB-AL / INFO** are also available on **Internet**, at the following address: <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg1b/URB-AL/urb-al.htm>. You can consult them shortly on the AL-INVEST site under <http://tips.org.uy/sai>.

You can also obtain information on URB-AL from the EC Delegations in Latin America and the EC Offices in the European Union (for addresses please see cover page).