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

Directorate: Latin America

Unit: Economic Cooperation



URB-AL / INFO



Information circular No 6

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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

The growth of the megalopolis

“The world’s cities are growing at a fantastic rate. According to UN statistics, by around 2025 they will be home to 60% of all humans. Latin America is no exception to this inexorable trend. In less than thirty years’ time, with an 85% urban population, it will have caught up with the United States, where the flow from country to town began a century ago. In Latin America this is happening extraordinarily fast: in 1970, town dwellers made up 74% of the North American population, as against “only” 57% of Latin Americans.

The region is also caught up in another trend: the growth of the megalopolis. Of the 23 giants with more than 8 million inhabitants (the UN forecasts 32 in 2015!), four are located in Latin America: Mexico City (from 15.5 million 1990 to 18.8 million in 2015: + 21%) Rio de Janeiro (from 9.8 to 11.6 million: + 18%), São Paulo (from 16.1 to 20.8 million: + 29%), Buenos Aires (from 10.9 to 12.4 million: + 13%). Nevertheless, they will account for only 11% of the urban population in 2015; most of the rest will live in towns with fewer than 500 000 inhabitants.”

Source: Article by Hervé Ponchelet, in the news weekly “Le Point”, n° 1318-1319, 20 December 1997, p. 157.

Launch of Network No 1: “Drugs and Towns”

First International Seminar of the URB-AL Programme organised by the Municipality of Santiago, Chile

The launch seminar in Santiago, Chile, on 10 and 11 November 1997, was attended by 200 people, brought together by their common desire to tackle the drugs problem. They included representatives of about a hundred Latin American and European Union towns, and of a range of public and private sector institutions (NGOs, ministries, international cooperation agencies, research centres, etc.) in both regions.

This meeting, marked the launch of the first of the urban networks being set up under the URB-AL programme to focus on specific issues. The aim of the “Towns and drug problems” network, coordinated by the municipality of Santiago, is to promote the transfer of experience, identify common priorities and set up mechanisms for tackling urban drug problems. These mechanisms include joint projects devised by network members to study and apply the pooled experience exchanged at network meetings.

At the plenary session, opened by the Mayor of Santiago, Mr Ravinet de la Fuente, the Representative of the EU Presidency, the Netherlands Ambassador, Mr von Mülhen, head of the EC Delegation to Chile, Mr Juul, the Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Mr Estievenart and Chile’s deputy Minister for Internal Affairs, Mr Velasco, a “basic document” drafted by three experts on drugs issues was presented and discussed.

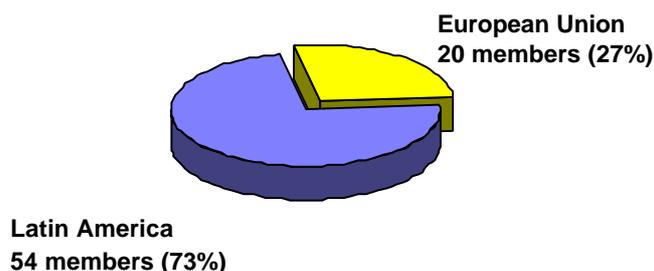
The plenary session was followed by workshops, with participants selected to accommodate the preferences they had indicated among a list of subjects in the basic document and ensure a balanced representation of the countries and regions involved.

The workshops were on: preventing drug consumption, the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, preventing and tackling drug-related crime, and involving ordinary citizens. This choice of subjects was influenced by a focus on prevention and rehabilitation, specifically in urban contexts.

Participants took a very active part in the workshops. They continued certain debates in greater depth and worked out the outlines of joint projects. The first deadline for submitting joint project proposals to the Commission was set at 30 April 1998 in accordance with the procedures set out in the URB-AL Programme Guide.

The creation of an active inter-urban network providing a channel communication and cooperation on specific action inspired great interest and hope among the local authorities present. This first network under the URB-AL programme, coordinated by the Municipality of Santiago, already has 74 members. Of the 33 countries eligible for URB-AL measures, 17 are taking part in this network's activities. 73% of the members come from 10 Latin American countries and 27% from 7 EU countries.

Geographical repartition of the "Drugs and Towns" network



Since a thematic network may have up to 150 members, municipal and local authorities wishing to join this network can still contact the coordinator, whose details are given below:

M. Carlos Varas
 Director para las Relaciones Internacionales
 Alcaldía Santiago de Chile
 Plaza de Armas s/n, Casilla 52-D
 Santiago / Chile
 Tel.: +56 2 6392691
 Fax: +56 2 6321962
 E-mail: stgoint@reuna.cl

Visit the Internet site of the "Drugs and Towns" network on www.urb-al.cl



The Municipality of Santiago has set up an Internet site providing information on the "Drugs: an urban problem" network and its activities. You are warmly invited to explore the site, which provides a number of information and communication facilities including a home page, basic documents and seminar minutes, a list of members, case studies, a library and links with other related sites.

Network No 2: “Conservation of historic urban contexts”, coordinated by the Province of Vicenza

The second network under the URB-AL Programme will work on the “*conservation of urban historic contexts*”, which encompasses all aspects of the urban heritage in the broadest sense. It is being coordinated by the Province of **Vicenza**.



Towns and local authorities interested in this subject are invited to contact the coordinator, whose details are given below:

<p>Dott. Franco Pepe Capo di Gabinetto Amministrazione Provinciale di Vicenza Contrà Porti, n° 16 I-36100 Vicenza (Italia) Tel.: +39 444 399141 Fax: +39 444 967767</p>

The launch seminar will be held on 15 and 16 May 1998, in Vicenza, Italy.

Coordination of Networks 3, 4 & 5

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

With a view to selecting coordinators for these three networks, three calls for proposals were published in Official Journal S 60 of 26 March 1997.

The proposals were selected in two phases in accordance with European Commission procedures. To evaluate the quality of the proposals the Commission consulted experts on the High-Level Technical Committee of the URB-AL Programme (HTC).

When the selection procedure was completed the Commission decided to give the following towns responsibility for coordinating the projects:

➤ **Network No 3 “Democracy in towns”**

Local coordinating authority: Ville de Issy-Les-Moulineaux
Details of the official responsible: André Santini
Maire
Hôtel de Ville
62, rue du Général Leclerc
F-92131 Issy-Les-Moulineaux (France)
Tél: +33 1 40 95 65 00
Fax: +33 1 40 95 66 04

➤ **Network No 4: “The town as a promoter of economic development”**

Local coordinating authority: Ayuntamiento de Madrid
Details of the official responsible: José Ma Alvarez del Manzano
y López del Hierro
Alcalde
Plaza de la Villa 4 - 2º
E-28005 Madrid (España)
Tél: +34 1 588 14 88
Fax: +34 1 588 16 06

➤ **Network No 5: “Urban social policies”**

Local coordinating authority: Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo
Details of the official responsible: Mariano Arana
Intendente Municipal
Avenida 18 de Julio 1360
11200 Montevideo (Uruguay)
Tél: +598 2 901 42 60
Fax: +598 2 902 34 94

The Commission would urge all those concerned to contact the coordinators appointed, so as to benefit from the experience of all the towns and local authorities which expressed their interest in the networks by associating themselves with a coordination proposal.

At present, more than a thousand towns in the European Union (approx. 40 %) and Latin America (approx. 60%) have taken steps to participate in Networks 1 to 5, a clear indication of the strong interest aroused by the URB-AL Programme.

Selection of coordinators for Networks 6, 7 & 8

- *Network No 6: “Urban environment”*
- *Network No 7: “Management and control of urbanisation”*
- *Network No 8: “Urban mobility”*

With a view to selecting coordinators for these three networks, three invitations for proposals have been published in the Official Journal (OJ), C Series - No 58 of 24/02/98.

Biennial meetings

The aim of the biennial meetings is to bring together mayors and other high-level public figures representing European and Latin American local authorities to discuss a top priority urban issue. The meetings are intended to provide an opportunity to pool experience, identify common key objectives and devise specific mechanisms and measures for achieving them.

At the end of each biennial meeting the participants will sign an ***“action declaration”*** on the issue covered by the meeting. This joint undertaking is intended to ensure that the issue is pursued and the impact of the event is sustained.

A coordination group, answering to the authorities of the city organising the event, will be responsible for monitoring and implementing the action plan.

The proceedings of the meeting will be published in an appropriate form of communication. Its conclusions will also be made available on Internet.

The first of the URB-AL biennial meetings will address the issue of ***“Urban renewal”***. It will be held in Lisbon on 12 and 13 June 1998, during the “Expo 98” Universal Exhibition, which the Portuguese capital will be hosting from 22 May to 30 September 1998.

Cities, regions and other local authorities interested in taking part in the Lisbon meeting should contact the official responsible for the event, whose details are given below:

Madame Cristina Rocha
 Directora do Gabinete de Relações Internacionais
 Departamento de Apoio à Gestão e Actividade Institucional
 Câmara Municipal de Lisboa
 Rua do Ouro 49 - 4º Piso
 P-1100 Lisboa (Portugal)

Tel.: +351 1 3227366 or 65
 Fax: +351 1 3227009

The second biennial meeting should be held in a Latin American city in 2000. The Commission is open to any proposals from Latin American cities interested in organising the meeting.

High-Level Technical Committee

List of members	
Manuel Camacho Solis	José Emilio Patricio Rodé
Maria Luisa Cerrillos	Cornelia Poczka
Hector Dada Hirezi	René Schoonbrodt
Per-Håkan Slotte	Jaime Torres Lara

The composition of the Committee has recently been changed. Mr Hugues de Jouvenel has been replaced by Mr Per-Håkan Slotte, Mayor of Porvoo, Finland.

In line with its role, the High-Level Technical Committee attended the launch seminar for Network No 1, "Towns and drug problems", in Santiago, Chile, on 10 and 11 November 1997.

The Committee took an active part in the debates and many of the workshops. It also sent the Commission a brief evaluation of the event.

At its third ordinary meeting, held from 12 to 14 November, the Committee examined thoroughly the detailed proposals submitted to the Commission by pre-selected cities following the publication in OJ No S 60 of 26 March 1997 of invitations for proposals for the coordination of Networks 3, 4 and 5.

The Committee submitted its proposal to the Commission.

The Committee members also examined the proposal from the City of Lisbon about the experts to be appointed to draft the basic document for the first biennial meeting on the subject of "Urban Renewal". The Committee's suggestions and comments on this matter were forwarded to the City of Lisbon.

The next Committee meeting is due on the occasion of the launch seminar of the Vicenza network on 15 and 16 May 1998. The biennial meeting in Lisbon on 12 and 13 June will also provide an excellent opportunity to bring the members of the Committee together.

URB-AL Programme Guide

A provisional edition of the Programme Guide, listing all URB-AL activities (biennial meetings, networks on specific issues and joint projects), is available in Spanish, English, French and Portuguese.

The Spanish version is also available on Internet. The other language versions will be available later.

Bound copies should be available in the above languages sometime in the first half of 1998.



The Programme Guide is made up of three brochures:

- 1. A General presentation of the URB-AL Programme**
- 2. Activities of the URB-AL Programme**
- 3. Forms**

These forms are intended exclusively for the submission of joint project proposals to the European Commission.

External Secretariat for the URB-AL Programme

The procedure for selecting the body which will assume responsibility for the implementation and management of the permanent External Secretariat of the URB-AL Programme is in hand.

The Provisional Secretariat has been promoting and distributing information on the URB-AL programme and monitoring its activities up to **15 February 1998**.

From that date, until the permanent External Secretariat is established, any requests for information should be sent directly to the Commission. The permanent External Secretariat should be able to start work during the second quarter of 1998. Its details will be published on Internet as soon as possible.

For more information on URB-AL

Information circular No 7 will come out in June 1998. If you wish to subscribe and/or receive additional information on the URB-AL Programme, please contact the European Commission:

<p style="text-align: center;">URB-AL Programme European Commission Directorate-General IB: External Relations Directorate for Latin America - Unit IB/B/5 Rue de la Loi, 200 (office SC. 14 - 04/79) B-1049 Brussels - Belgium</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel.: +32 2 299 07 49 Fax: +32 2 299 39 41</p>

All issues of **URB-AL / INFO** can also be found on Internet in six languages: German, English, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese on the following address:

⇒ <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg1b/URB-AL/urb-al.htm>

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