

IN THIS ISSUE

In the second half of 2003, the new URB-AL networks began their public work. **NETWORK 13, "Towns and the Information Society"**, coordinated by the Freie Hansestadt Bremen, and **NETWORK 14, "Citizens' Safety in Towns"**, coordinated by the Municipalidad de Valparaiso, held their respective launch seminars in the autumn. The Prefeitura Municipal de Porto Alegre, the coordinator of **NETWORK 9, "Local Finance and Participative Budgets"**, organised its launch seminar at the beginning of 2004.

The main focus of this issue is the Type-B projects. Descriptions are given of the initial Type-B projects in progress. In addition to these four projects, there are the ones organised by the Ayuntamiento de Málaga and the Ville d'Issy-les-Moulineaux, based on the results achieved by Networks 6 and 3 respectively. A further 6 new Type-B projects were approved in the call for proposals in October 2003. Of these, 4 will apply the outcome of the type A joint projects on pooling experience.

This will permit new and innovative ways of moving from pooling experience to practical application, based on visible, tangible actions in a series of towns that will continue to work together for their collective benefit and for that of specific groups within their populations.

On the occasion of the revision of the regional programmes on decentralised cooperation, the External Relations Commissioner, Mr Chris Patten, said that he was very satisfied with the efforts made. This success is shared by all the participants and, together with Mr Patten, we would ask you to continue relying on the URB-AL Programme as an international reference by playing an active part in the second phase of the programme, and in particular by generating proposals for joint projects that combine technical excellence with creative innovation.

RICCARDO GAMBINI
EuropeAid Cooperation Office – Head of Unit E2

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



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EuropeAid
Cooperation Office
Latin America Directorate



Montevideo. The headquarters of the Ciudad Vieja Renueva project

JOINT PROJECTS SELECTED

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2003 – 31 OCTOBER 2003 (REFERENCE EUROPEAID/113113/C/G)

Coordination of joint projects

TYPE "A" JOINT PROJECTS			
Selected Coordinator	Country	Project Title	Project No
Comune di Roma – Italia	IT	Nuevos modelos de desarrollo urbano integrado por la valorización del patrimonio ambiental y cultural	R6-A6-03
Comune di Arezzo– Italia	IT	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 medioambiente	R6-A7-03
Prefeitura de São Paulo	BRA	O acesso ao solo e habitação social em cidades grandes de regiões metropolitanas da América latina e Europa	R7-A3-03
Consell Comarcal de l'Alt Empordà	ES	La administración local como garante de atención de los adultos mayores y generadora de nuevos yacimientos de empleo	R10-A7-03
Prefeitura Municipal de Rio Grande da Serra	BRA	Manual de políticas públicas de saúde para o combate à pobreza e a melhoria da qualidade de vida	R10-A8-03
Prefeitura Municipal de Jacarei	BRA	Instrumentalizar as localidades para o combate à pobreza	R10-A10-03
Prefeitura Municipal de Belo Horizonte	BRA	Inclusão Social através de Políticas Intersetoriais	R10-A11-03
Municipalidad Distrital de Independencia	PER	Autodeterminación de las mujeres a través del empleo local	R12-A3-03
Ayuntamiento de Irún	ES	Observatorio - EALNET	R12-A4-03
Municipio del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito	EQU	Construyendo ciudades incluyentes. Promoción de la equidad de género en la gestión local	R12-A6-03
TYPE "B" JOINT PROJECTS			
Selected Coordinator	Country	Project Title	Project No
Prefeitura Municipal de Caixas do Sul	BRA	Projecto de valorização do turismo integrado à identidade cultural dos territórios – VICTUR	R2-B2-03
Ayuntamiento de Irún	ES	Alianzas público privadas para el desarrollo económico local OBSERVA.NET	R4-B4-03
Odense Comune	DK	Centro Regional Potenciador para Mujeres Emprendedoras y Trabajadoras	R5-B5-03
City of Karlsruhe	DE	Sustainable waste management for oceanic islands – Extension & transfer	R6-B3-03
Intendencia Municipal de Rosario	ARG	Rosario SUMA. Una solución Urbana desde una Mirada Alternativa	R7-B1-03
Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart	DE	MOVI-MAN	R8-B2-03

TIMETABLE

Annual meetings 2004: provisional dates

NETWORK No - COORDINATOR	PLACE	DATE
No 6 Ayuntamiento de Málaga	Málaga – Spain	18-19 June 2004
No 9 Prefeitura de Porto Alegre	Porto Alegre - Brazil	26-28 January 2004
No 10 Prefeitura de São Paulo	São Paulo – Brazil	17-19 February 2004
No 12 Diputación Provincial de Barcelona	Barcelona – Spain	21-23 April 2004
No 13 Freie Hansestadt Bremen	To be decided	November 2004
No 14 Municipalidad de Valparaíso	Valparaíso - Chile	9-10 September 2004

Initial typology

Since the launching of calls in January 2002 for the submission of proposals for Type B projects, the European Commission has received over 25 such proposals, of which 12 were selected. Of these, 7 are coordinated by Network Coordinators from the first phase, while the remaining 5 emerged from the results of projects on pooling of experience in the first phase or Type A projects. These last Type B projects, drawing on the results of joint projects, will become increasingly frequent in future years.

Based on the proposals received, a typology of Type B joint projects can already be sketched out in line with the procedure for distributing activities between the members and the cooperation arrangements being established between them.

Four types or "models" of Type B projects can be identified according to the above-mentioned criteria:

- A "reproduction" model, in which all member towns perform similar work or provide an identical public service. In this case the coordinator assumes leadership of the work, while the relations between the members, which are close, are organised on a horizontal basis.

- A "complementary" model, in which various complementary actions are implemented in the various members, linked to a common base. This requires strong leadership by the coordinator in order to maintain coherence between the actions, while the relations between the members must be close and horizontal.

- A "centralised" model, in which most of the work is carried out by the coordinating city and where the relations between the members involve the coordinator. This model is more suitable for projects requiring a certain amount of investment in equipment.

- An "associative" model, in which most of the work is concentrated in a few members. In this case, the coordinator – usually European – focuses on managing the project, while implementation is left to the members. Relations are generally vertical.

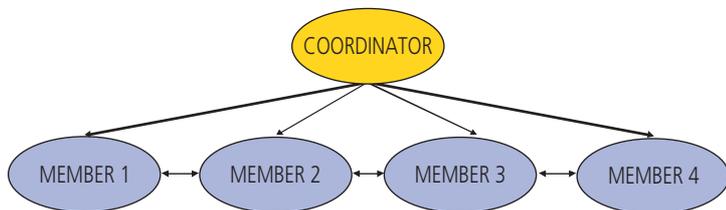
It is worthwhile pointing out at this juncture that all these models are valid, but that there is also a strong link between the actions and the type of project. Each one of these models has its advantages, weak points and even risks, of course, in terms

of coherence and efficiency, as well as participation and distribution of benefits among members. Other types or combinations between different models could also be devised. The Commission is relying on the creativity of the participants to enhance this basic typology.

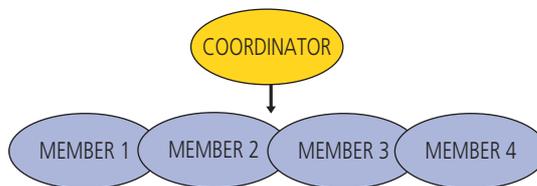
Be that as it may, it must be emphasised that, in addition to the arrangements applying to Type B projects, the proposals must be of a technical quality that matches the amount of the grant. It is also essential to move from the pooling of experience to the practical application of the results through innovative projects which are very visible for citizens and which lead to tangible, practical results. Because of their subject matter, several Type A joint projects cannot be developed further even when they have achieved pertinent results.

A new support document "Guidelines for grant applicants" and a new form will be available from the beginning of 2004 to facilitate the preparation and presentation of Type B projects. Use of these documents will be compulsory as of the call for proposals in April 2004. You can find them as usual on the Programme web site. ■

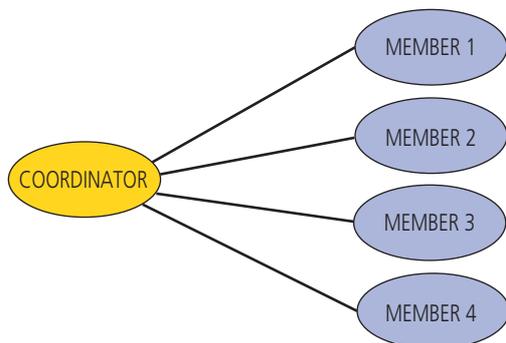
REPRODUCTION MODEL



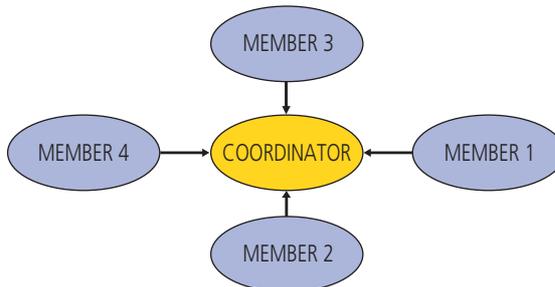
COMPLEMENTARY MODEL



ASSOCIATIVE MODEL



CENTRALISED MODEL



COORDINATED BY THE FREIE HANSESTADT BREMEN

Towns and the Information Society

Network 13, "Towns and the Information Society", was officially launched on 22 and 23 September 2003 in the centre of the Freie Hansestadt Bremen, in the historical buildings of the Bremen Town Hall and Senate, the State Parliament, which were made available especially for this event as a conference venue. The seminar was inaugurated by the Bremen Senator for Education and Science, Mr Willi Lemke. This network's theme coincides with one of the Commission's priorities for strengthening the strategic partnership between Europe and Latin America. Expectations are particularly high that this network will turn into a veritable forum that will enable this objective to be achieved at the level of the local authorities.

On this occasion, Mr Willi Lemke, Senator for Education and Science of the Freie Hansestadt Bremen and head of Network 13, opened the plenary session which was attended by representatives of the European Commission from the EuropeAid Cooperation Office, Berith Andersson and Marc Rimez, and from the Directorate-General for the Information Society, Henri Pascal. The experts responsible for drafting the basic document outlining the main lines and strategies of Network 13 reported on their main conclusions.

Using the general theme "Towns and the Information Society" as a basis, the experts identified four main topics with the help of

the members of Network 13, with each topic corresponding to one of the central chapters in the basic document. These subdivisions – "Government and Administration", "Persons", "Undertakings" and "Urban Environment" – also provided the theoretical framework for the workshops held during the launch seminar, in which 63 participants from local authorities and 14 external members played an active part.

Thus some eighty people from sixteen different Latin American and European countries contributed to the success of this launch seminar by proposing twelve ideas for joint project proposals during the workshops.

During this phase, the members of Network 13 were asked to review the various ideas for proposals which are accessible online on the Network's web site, and to contact directly the coordinators of the joint proposals to obtain more details. The Network coordination fixed 31 March 2004 as the deadline for submitting proposals. The proposals will be forwarded to the Commission by 30 April 2004 at the latest, in accordance with the usual procedure.

The next annual meeting of Network 13 will be held at the beginning of November 2004 in one of the cities of Latin America belonging to the Network. ■



Bremen. Inauguration of the seminar by Senator Willi Lemke

Question for the authors of the basic document

From the local to the global: what are towns doing to develop their own Information Society and what are the main challenges facing them in relation to the global IS which is to be turned into a Society of Knowledge?

Towns are complex organisations based on collective rules needed to cope with social, economic and political changes, involving citizens and communities, public property and services, undertakings (including non-profit-making and third system organisations) and businesses loosely organised into types of economic groups.

Just like other forms of human organisation, for instance corporate groups, towns have had to deal with the opportunities and challenges of new information and communication technologies which permit new ways of managing information flows in organisational and productive processes, and which could result in an improvement in the way public services are provided, enhancing the administration's productivity.

Pioneering towns have been extremely active in experimenting, innovating and even implementing fully new ways of restructuring their activities and processes in the light of new technological and organisational developments. A number of examples were pinpointed and commented on in Network 13's basic document.

Just as SMEs are not in the same situation as large corporate groups when it comes to adopting ICT, so neither are small and medium-sized municipal authorities when it comes to taking the risks that pioneering towns have borne in the context of cutting-edge technology, in a highly uncertain context.

The path to innovation in most towns that are hoping to become active players in the global society involves networking and the pooling of experiences and resources with similar authorities, based on the principles of solidarity. It is not simply a question of not having to "reinvent the wheel" each time, but rather of benefiting from existing expertise and experience and of looking for economies of scope and scale in the development of products and processes, as well as of adapting human resources to the new features and ways of learning and working in the knowledge society.

Luis Lozano
Basic document coordinator

A FRAMEWORK FOR CO-OPERATION IN DEVELOPING THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (DIGITAL INCLUSION & CAPACITY BUILDING) AT THE CITY LEVEL

Vertical Sectors: Main Axis addressed to Government, People, Enterprises and Urban Environment

Horizontal Layers:	GOVERNMENT	PEOPLE	ENTERPRISES	URBAN ENVIRONMENT
Content	> e-Governance	> Community Development	> e-Inclusion & Networking for SMEs	> Local Environment & Sustainable Development
Applications	> e-Governance	> e-Inclusion for specific groups	> Entrepreneurship & the local economy	> Culture & Tourism
Generic Services	> Public Services On-line	> Education & Training	> Development & Support Centres	> Urban Management (i.e. GIS, Transport, Land management)
Networks	> e-Participation	> Entertainment & Culture	> e-Business & e-Commerce	
	> e-Health	> Lifelong Learning		
	ACCESS	KNOWLEDGE	SKILLS	SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

Diagonal Areas: Awareness Raising, Regulatory Framework, Public Private Partnership, Financial Engineering, Social Capital, Resource management

Main Dimensions and Axis for collaboration at the City level

COORDINATED BY THE MUNICIPALIDAD DE VALPARAISO

Citizens' safety in towns

The launch seminar of Network 14 on "Citizens' safety in towns" was held in the port of Valparaíso from 8 to 10 October 2003. The inauguration session was attended by the Minister of Home Affairs, José Miguel INSULZA, and approximately 200 participants, including the regional and local authorities from the participating towns of Latin America and Europe. The seminar was strongly supported by the local authorities involved in citizens' safety. The key role of citizens' safety in the local development and international impact strategy adopted by the Municipalidad de Valparaíso is another guarantee of the future success of Network 14.

The inaugural seminar was headed by the Minister of Home Affairs of the Government of Chile, José Miguel Insulza, the Adviser at the European Commission Delegation in Chile, Roberto Rensi, the Mayor of Valparaíso, Hernán Pinto, the URB-AL Programme Manager, Berith Andersson, and the Network 14 Coordinator, Gustavo Paulsen, who tackled the question of citizens' safety and well-being in towns in both regions.

Mr Insulza gave a talk on citizens' safety in Chile and Latin America. He emphasised in particular the differences between the perception and reality of citizens' safety. He also underlined the key role played by local bodies to cope jointly with this phenomenon. Gustavo Paulsen mentioned his expectations, adding that "we hope in this meeting to share a maximum of experiences and discussions and to pool solutions that will result in practical proposals for towns".



Network 14. Inauguration. At the table, Berith Andersson, official in charge of the URB-AL Programme, José Miguel Insulza, Minister of Home Affairs of Chile, Roberto Rensi, Member of European Union Delegation and Gustavo Paulsen, co-ordinator of Network 14. On the podium, Hernán Pinto, Mayor of Valparaíso

The inauguration was attended by the representative of the European Urban Safety Forum, Michel Marcus, who delivered a lecture on "Safety and Social Conviviality in Towns", underlining the fact that the partnership between the towns and institutions involved was paramount in generating a debate that would help solve the main problems of citizens' safety in Europe.

The 120 participants were organised into thematic workshops on topics such as:

- Citizens' safety, public policies and the urban configuration
- Instruments and areas of action relating to citizens' safety, and
- Citizens' safety and civil society.

During the two intense days of workshops, the representatives of the member towns presented their plans to be used subsequently to draw up "joint project" profiles, generating fourteen ideas for project proposals.

The Mayor of Valparaíso spoke at the closing ceremony, urging the participants to assume responsibility for change for the well-being of the inhabitants of their towns. The closing speech was given by Berith Andersson, who pointed to the success of this seminar, reflected in the excellent organisation and quality of the work carried out by the participants. She also proposed that work be conducted in the context of joint projects in order to introduce good practices that would benefit all urban communities. ■

Workshops: forums for debate and team-building

The Network members who attended the launch seminar of Network 14 played an active part as a result of the joint work carried out in the thematic workshops. The workshop participants spent two long days discussing citizens' safety issues affecting their towns as well as seeking convergence and partnership mechanisms that would enable them to create joint project profiles. The degree of motivation of the participants was such that many groups continued working in their free time, defining and bringing their ideas to life in terms of objectives and actual activities to be carried out.

Four workshops were organised on the three thematic strategies. Twenty-five people took part in each one of them, from various towns in Latin America and Europe. With the support of a team of organisers and backed by experts and methodologists, interest focused on the thematic side, enabling the discussion to range from very general aspects to the most detailed ones.

This therefore provided the hoped-for platform for the first encounter between people from a number of diverse backgrounds, with differing views of citizens' safety. It provided an opportunity for the forging of relations and integration sought by the participants.

“Citizens' Safety, Public Policies and Urban Configuration”

The problems affecting the development of towns, their population growth and increase in territorial density, with reference to citizens' safety, were defined by the participants as follows:

- a lack of urban policies relating to safety
- urban segregation because of declining centres and the creation of social ghettos (abject poverty, unemployment, youth unemployment, domestic violence, alcohol, drugs and dropping out of school)
- insufficient police force in the town centre
- urbanisation problems, defined as the location of the poorest in peripheral areas with poor transport facilities and the threat of

potential natural disasters, without any planning and prevention process to cope with them.

According to the participants themselves, the causes of these problems include the lack of public and cultural entities, rejection by society of groups with social problems, social exclusion of young people, their lack of opportunities within the social system, violent behaviour, and the lack of clarity and inadequacy of the roles, powers and strategies of local governments.

“Instruments and areas of action relating to citizens' safety”

With regard to this theme, the participants focused on the lack of help for victims of attacks. They pointed out that there was no care available for victims of crime or violence, no political will was in place to establish ad hoc rules, and there was no effective system for helping victims. These phenomena accentuate the subjective and individual perception of the lack of safety held by urban populations on our continents.

Turning to the existing instruments for measuring, evaluating, diagnosing and predicting abnormal behaviour within our societies, the participants said that there were no homogenous instruments at international level to permit comparative analyses, and no homogenous legal systems either that would enable these disasters to be countered by blocks of nations. Nor were



Workshops in full swing

there any integrated communications systems to find out about the situation in different countries.

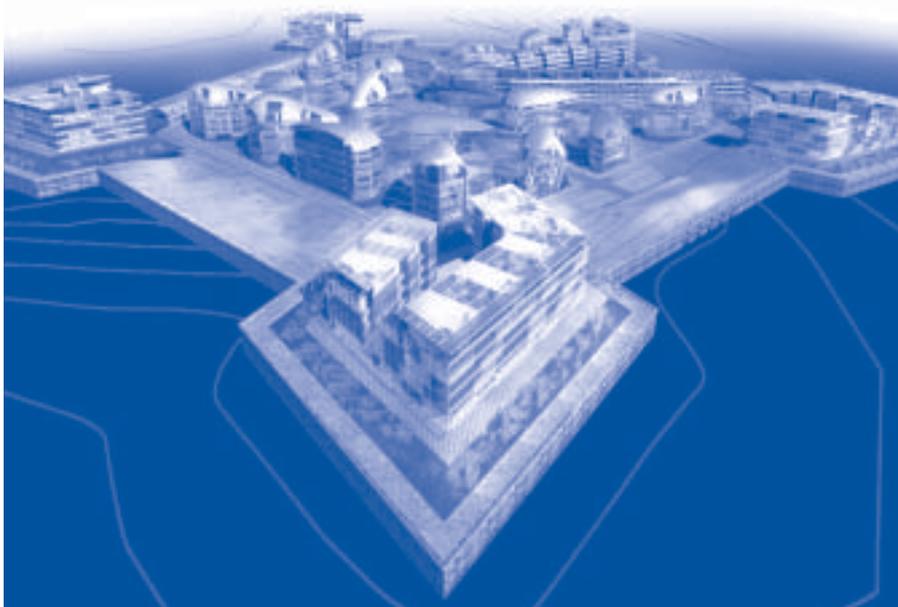
“Citizens' safety and civil society”

According to the participants, civil society is experiencing serious sociability problems: a deterioration in social links, accentuation of social resentment between social groups, generation by the media of a culture and identity specific to criminality, increase in contempt by society, greater social insecurity, leading to frustration, aggression and violence, and a lack of responsibility with respect to collective needs. The participants felt that all of these factors had led to a general fragmentation of the community and a greater tendency towards individualism.

Gustavo Paulsen
Coordinator of Network 14

Issy-Les-Moulineaux: Consolidating local democracy with the use of new technologies

In the four years of coordination of URB-AL's Network 3, "Democracy in towns", the town of Issy-les-Moulineaux has helped to bring to light and develop new local democracy practices. In July 2003, the European Commission selected the Type B project "E-Agora: the Electronic Democracy Academy" based on the outcome of the work of Network 3.



e-AGORA will be implemented in the context of "Fuerte Digital" in Issy-les-Moulineaux

The key objective of the e-Agora project is to establish an Electronic Democracy Academy that will endeavour to experiment and promote the use of new technologies in order to strengthen participatory democracy. The central theme of e-Agora is its concentration on the development and promotion of the use of new technologies in public management and citizen participation practices, which is one of the most important themes of Network 3.

The project member towns – Issy-les-Moulineaux (FR), Frameries (B), Río Claro (BRA), Juiz de Fora (BRA) Viña del Mar (CHI) and Corporación Encuentro (CHI) – have engaged in different local democracy experiences and are seeking, through this project, to develop alternatives using ICT, in close cooperation with universities and

civil society institutions involved in the local democracy dimension. The project will also involve in its activities voluntary citizen groups and groups of young students interested in the themes tackled by e-Agora. It is hoped that this partnership will ensure their active participation in the performance of the project and enable them to obtain real training in e-Democracy practices.

It is not simply a question of increasing ways of participation, but also of strengthening the interaction between the local authorities and civil society with a view to enhancing transparency, improving public services and modernising political relations.

e-Agora will provide a forum for on-going debates, thus acting as a reference point in the theme of electronic democracy, like a

kind of "reinvented agora". e-Agora will thus contribute to the birth of a new socio-political culture: a culture of local democracy which uses new technologies, a culture to be shared by Europe and Latin America.

The Academy will develop two main activities: one on training and empowerment and the other one on experimentation.

e-Agora, accessible via the Internet, will act as an information centre in real time (French, Spanish, Portuguese and English), a forum for pooling experiences and a technological platform for online training and empowerment. The beneficiaries will be not only the project protagonists, but also other local authority officers and other players in civil society in each project member town. Other authorities in Europe and Latin America can benefit from the courses via the Internet.

e-AGORA will also be a centre for experimentation: throughout the project, different technologies will be tried out (Internet, cell-phone, interactive television, etc.) to modernise participatory democracy practices. The most appropriate technologies for increasing existing means of participation will be developed, in line with the special features of each town.

At the end of the project, a "White Paper" will summarise the various results of e-Agora. This Paper will underline the diverse aspects of the experiences: benefits and potential, problems and limits, and will attempt to meet the challenges of using new technologies in order to strengthen local democracy practices.

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Ayuntamiento de Málaga: the Urban Environment Observatory – an instrument for all members of Network 6

*The Ayuntamiento de Málaga has started an URB-AL project consisting of the establishment of an **Urban Environment Observatory**, in which urban indicators will be analysed in order to monitor environmental developments in Málaga and in all the towns in Network 6. Furthermore, the Observatory will act as a training centre on environmental matters, giving theory and practical courses to project members. All these plans will be carried out in a pioneering building designed in accordance with bioclimatic architectural requirements.*

Coordinated by the Ayuntamiento de Málaga, the project has nine members from Network 6: Calvià (Spain), Provincia de Treviso (Italy), Roma (Italy), Montevideo (Uruguay), Viña del Mar (Chile), Rosario (Argentina), Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Corporación Regional del Atlántico-Barranquilla (Colombia) and the Regional Office of Latin American and the Caribbean (ROLAC) – United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation.

The aim in establishing the Observatory is to gather together actions developed over the past four years of work by Network 6 within the same physical and permanent area. It is intended to conduct a project which includes the building of an urban facility equipped with ecological, smart structures. The building itself will constitute a visible reference point for the action, and will provide space for the training of local authority employees in the areas covered by the Network, and for the establishment of an observatory to monitor, using indicators, the good practices in use in Europe and Latin America.

A pioneering building

The Urban Environment Observatory (OMAU) will be located on a local authority site in the vicinity of Parque Morlaco. It will be housed in a new 'smart' building designed in accordance with bioclimatic architectural requirements, based on the climate of the place, with a design that makes use of energy generated by nature.

Recycled, ecological materials that are environmentally efficient will be used in the building work. The building will be run on alternative energy sources.

Continuing training for members

Local authority officers from the member towns will be trained using a programme comprising two parts, one theoretical and the other one practical.

The theory part will consist of training sessions focusing on the four main aspects laid down by Network 6:

- The configuration of the town
- Social cohesion
- Waste management
- Government of the town.

The training sessions will take place online, via the Internet, and there will also be training requiring the actual physical presence of the trainees, which will last for 14 days per year.

The practical part of the training programme is intended to update the Local Agendas 21 of all the participants in the project, and will involve pooling experiences and receiving support from hired experts.

Formulation of environmental indicators

The main objective of the Observatory is to formulate, in line with existing methodologies, some of which come from the European Commission, a system of common indicators for all the members that can be used to measure over time the development of urban systems and their features within a sustainable time-frame. This initial information must be extended subsequently to other non-member towns so that the data bank can be offered on the Observatory's web site as a source and example of good practices.

The way in which the building of the Málaga Urban Environment Observatory is designed makes it a pioneering experiment in Europe where there is no observatory with such features, combining a bioclimatic urban facility with a training centre and service for monitoring urban indicators and good environmental practices. ■





First Course in the Escuela de Formación Transmunicipal de Desarrollo local, Madrid-Irún-Rome

The first module, "Business Promotion and Employment", was launched on 6 October last. It forms part of the Type B project: "Escuela de Formación Transmunicipal de Desarrollo Local" (Transmunicipal Local Development Training School) coordinated by the Ayuntamiento de Madrid.

The ceremony took place at the headquarters of the School, the Antiguo Laboratorio Municipal, in Madrid.

Thirty-six representatives took part from the six member entities in the project: Municipalidad de San Salvador de Jujuy (Argentina), Bidasoa Activa (Spain), Ayuntamiento de Madrid (Spain), Comune di Roma (Italy), Gobierno del Estado de Jalisco (Mexico) and Cabildo Metropolitano de Caracas (Venezuela).

The module was held from 6 to 19 October: the first week in Madrid and the second one involving visits to Comarca del Bidasoa and Rome. It was divided into four blocks:

- Local development as a galvanising agent for the territory
- Institutional structure of local development
- Technological innovation in local areas

- New tools for promoting and establishing undertakings.

The Madrid programme was rounded off with field visits and "in situ" explanations at the IFEMA, IMEFE, Chamber of Commerce and Madrid Parque Tecnológico.

In the Comarca del Bidasoa, the participants had the opportunity of finding out about individual and cross-border experiences on development conducted by three municipal authorities in the Comarca: Irún and Hondarribia in Spain, and Hendaya in France. Similarly, they studied the functioning of the regional development agency, Bidasoa Activa, geared to promoting and under-



Official inauguration at the School headquarters in Madrid

pinning development, consolidating the local economy and creating jobs.

In Rome, the participants were told about the work done by the municipal authorities to support SMEs, plus the development policies pursued, which are much influenced by Local Agenda 21.

Two other modules are planned on Sustainable Development and Citizens and Social Well-being. Information on the three courses will be available on an e-learning platform during the last six months of the project. ■

Provincia de Vicenza: first courses by the Centro Internacional de Formación para la Valorización y Conservación de los Contextos Históricos Urbanos

The first two terms of the course aimed at young graduates of the "Centro Internacional de Formación para la Valorización y Conservación de los Contextos Históricos" already took place at the headquarters of the Centre in Vicenza during the second half of 2003.

The first term of the course focused on the theoretical aspects of urban projects, in particular experiences involving the renovation of European historic town centres. The strategies of the Escuela de Vicenza, shared by all the teachers at the centre, are based on experiences which perceive urban restoration projects as a will "to preserve the historic traces which time has left on the town or on the monument, maintaining them and possibly adding new architectural elements to make the town or product suitable for contemporary use".

During the second term, from 15 September 2003 to 21 November 2003, the urban project laboratory was opened to apply the theoretical aspects analysed during the first term, together with specialised courses in restoration sciences. The purpose of the studies was an urban project for the district of San Rocco in Vicenza, a part of the town which has important monuments and an urban fabric that is becoming increasingly impoverished and turning into a museum.

The laboratory classes will analyse the renovation of the district in an attempt to

reverse the current trends, in which the historic centre is affected by urban decline, while the introduction of economic activities such as services and the impossibility of making the historic urban fabric compatible with contemporary life are seriously affecting the quality of life in this part of the town. ■

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Montevideo: Ciudad Vieja Renuева inaugurates its headquarters

The launching of the Ciudad Vieja Renuева project in the historic quarter of Montevideo involved the neighbours and other local actors.

The Ciudad Vieja Renuева project started its activities in May 2003. The Local Workshop was a particularly important meeting, in which social and cultural organisations, traders and entrepreneurs, public bodies, graphics artists, local authorities and representatives of the local government worked on criteria to select zones for rehabilitation of facades in the Ciudad (historic centre), on proposals for tourism and cultural development and on potential actors and missions by the local Cooperation Group.

Seminar – International Workshop

On 30 July, an open event was held for local organisations, public bodies and neighbours. The Mayor of Montevideo, Dr Adolfo Pérez Piera, inaugurated the event together with the

Head of the European Commission Delegation in Uruguay, Ms Stella Zervoudaki. Also taking part were representatives of the local authorities which are members of the project – Rosario (Argentina), Santo André (Brazil), Bilbao (Spain) and Turin (Italy) – who presented a number of experiences in progress in their towns. On 31 July and 1 August, the representatives of the local authority project members and the local authority team in charge of the project engaged in intense meetings to adjust the planning and coordination of criteria and joint activities.

Inauguration of the headquarters of Ciudad Vieja Renuева

The seminar closed with the inauguration of the headquarters of Ciudad Vieja Renuева on 1 August, attended by a Councillor of

Montevideo, Arq. Mariano Arana, and by representatives of the members. The inauguration opened and closed with an artistic show.

Ciudad Vieja Renuева today

The progress in the activities in the coming months can be followed in the Project's various publications and on its web site: www.montevideo.gub.uy/ciudadvieja. ■

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Consell Comarcal de l'Alt Empordà: the design phase of the local policies on tackling drug addiction

The process of drafting and publishing specific guides planned in the Project was launched by the Consell Comarcal de l'Alt Empordà.

Efforts are currently focusing on various documents, based on questionnaires, reports and consultations, and include: a



The headquarters of the Consell Comarcal de l'Alt Empordà

guide on the development of local drug addiction observatories, designing of a community programme for tackling drug addiction, design of a prevention programme for use in families and drafting of a guide on reducing dangers and risks.

The initial achievements to date include the IT system, for internal communications and exchanges, which is geared to three strategies:

- A monthly report to monitor the active participation of the members.
- A virtual network for the use of the various organisations and professional participants in the project, linked to the virtual training school.
- A bi-monthly bulletin, printed, which lists the activities of the participating members and contains articles, etc.

The **virtual training school** will start operating during the first quarter of 2004. The aim is to contribute to the continuing training of professionals and technical experts in the participating members to improve their capacity for response, agree on criteria relating to efforts to tackle this phenomenon and adapt efforts to the agreed needs and priorities. ■

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“Participative budgets applied to young people” coordinated by the Mairie de Lamentin: encouraging the participation of young people at local level

The participation of the Mairie du Lamentin in the URB-AL Programme faces a veritable challenge: to try out new events to get young people involved in local politics, based on the experiences of the various towns. The objective of the project is to create a methodology based on educational instruments and ensure the participation of young people by means of participative budgets

The first meeting of the members took place at Le Lamentin in December 2002, when the common methodology for carrying out the planned actions was vali-

dated, in particular the establishment in each town of a competent deliberating assembly consisting of young people. During the second meeting in Santo André (Brazil) at the end of October 2003, each town sent young people already trained for the work to the various deliberating assemblies to pool experiences and discuss future projects.

Significant progress in the participation of young people in local decision-making processes, based on participative budgets, has been noted in each town, despite the fact that starting points were very different. The young people present at the meeting created a common language, overcoming the language barriers, and were able to



Le Lamentin. Participants at the seminar

compare their everyday lives. They expressed their hope of establishing “youth-friendly” towns.

The project has its own web site: www.mairie-lamentin.com/urbal

R3-P9-01 “Participative budgets applied to young people: a tool for local authority policies in favour of young people”

Coordinator: Mairie du Lamentin (FR)

Members: Prefeituras de Bara Mansa, Rio Claro, Santo André (BRA), Municipalidad de Guanta (VEN), Ayuntamiento de Rubi (ES).

“Internet: a tool for perfecting local democracy”, coordinated by the Prefeitura de Belo Horizonte: new technologies at the service of local democracy

Together with the members of the URB-AL project, the Prefeitura de Belo Horizonte is developing a social inclusion project based on the mounting of an itinerant educational unit.

Once the main item of equipment (a lorry) was purchased, it was converted into two rooms with capacity for 28 pupils. The aim is to facilitate access to computer technology for communities which do not have

such access by incorporating computer practice into their everyday lives and by developing interactive educational work.

The objectives of the project are to:

- provide young people and communities with access to computers as a way of acquiring new skills;
- stimulate individual and collective initiatives in educational processes by means of computer technology;

- use computer resources to encourage the formation of community associations;
- consolidate the habit of reading, studying and discussing citizens’ rights and duties through computers;
- develop cultural and information activities which complement the social projects established by social organisations.

The objective of the project members is to train 1 260 pupils thanks to the assistance of 30 monitors specially trained for this purpose.

R3-P2-00 “Internet: a tool to perfect local democracy”

Coordinator: Prefeitura de Belo Horizonte (BRA)

Members: Prefeitura de Juiz de Fora (BRA), Municipalidad de Viña del Mar (CHI), Alcaldía de Lima (PER), Mairie d’Issy-les-Moulineaux (FR), Câmara de Abrantes (PT)

“Instruments for the redistribution of urban income”, coordinated by the Ayuntamiento de Lleida: in quest of efficient instruments

The international URB-AL project team, consisting of representatives of the members, met in Torre Queralt (Lleida) on 24 and 25 September 2003. The aim was to help local urbanisation processes overcome urban shortcomings and inequalities.

The project is based on the idea that urbanisation processes, the main local economic activity, must allow the proper redistribution of urban income or the capital gains generated by it. Therefore legislative and tax instruments, urban policies, and urbanisation planning and management are

examined. Based on the experience of the local authorities taking part and of others in Europe and Latin America, the study will provide an analytical register of the instruments that allow the public sector to collect increases in urban income and to make use of these amounts to overcome urban shortcomings and inequalities. The final product will be a paper outlining the best practices and activities, which will be published and will also be available on the CEPAL and URB-AL web sites.

The meeting concentrated on designating one town for each one of the existing instru-

ments. Throughout the sessions, each representative from the towns in the project discussed experiences, work, projects, rules and objectives relating to the instruments.

This enabled direct responsibility to be assigned to each member town for the devising of the corresponding records, the aim being to analyse the content in depth and bring it into line, ensuring a high degree of application and relevance. During the meeting, the workshop decided on the content of the records for the instruments and the towns responsible for the initial drafting work. ■

R7-P7-02 “Instruments to redistribute urban income”

Coordinator: Ayuntamiento de Lleida (ES)

Members: Comune di Ferrara (IT), Municipalidad de Rosario (ARG), Municipalidad de Malvinas Argentinas (AR), Prefeitura de Rio Claro (BRA), CEPAL.

“Integration of bicycles into traffic planning in medium-sized towns”, coordinated by the Gemeente Utrecht: opening up new roads

The URB-AL project completed its activities at the end of November 2003. Quite apart from the potential future application of the activities, all the members found that the experiences of the others helped to provide answers to their own problems of improving traffic in their towns.

Most of the participating towns had drawn up their own papers on improving the use of bicycles in their local situations. Some of the papers have already been

approved as a legal basis by their respective authorities and used as a basis for local traffic policies. External members cooperated on the production of a Guide.

A brief video compares the conditions for cyclists in two towns in the project: Río de Janeiro and Utrecht. It is interesting to see how many of the problems affecting cycling are similar in both towns, despite their differences in every other respect. This factor is further proof of the importance of pooling experiences by towns in different situations. It also demonstrates the prejudice regarding the culture of cycling prevalent in the



The bicycle: one means of urban transport among others

Netherlands because of the special conditions there, and the mutual benefits that emerge from these exchanges. ■

R7-P7-02 “Integration of bicycles into traffic planning in medium-sized towns”

Coordinator: Gemeente Utrecht (NL)

Members: Florianópolis, Río Claro, Río de Janeiro (BR), Instituto de Vivienda y de Urbanismo (CHI), Baranquilla, Belén de Umbría, Departamento del Atlántico, Valledupar, Instituto de Desarrollo Urbano (COL), Loja (Ecuador), León (NIC), Universidad de Stuttgart, Stuttgart (DE), Graz (OS), Instituto de Estudios de Bizkaia (ES).

PROJECTS

Over fifty joint projects concluded their work in the context of the eight networks involved in the first phase of the Programme

Now over fifty projects for pooling experiences have completed their work in the first-phase networks. Eighteen joint projects completed their work during the second half of the year.

Coordinator	Country	Project No	Title of the Project
Ayuntamiento de Coria, Spain.	Spain	R2-P4-98	ARCHADIAE
Ayuntamiento de Guadalajara	Mexico	R2-P6-99	Los Centros Históricos, un patrimonio habitable.
Comune di Ragusa	Italy	R2-P7-99	Accessibilità e Mobilità dei contesti storici.
Comunidad de Madrid	Spain	R2-P1-00	Modelos de gestión de rehabilitación en cascos históricos.
Municipalidad de Posadas, Misiones	Argentina	R3-P1-99	Escuela de vecinos. Participación ciudadana.
Municipalidad de Cuenca.	Ecuador	R3-P2-99	Formulación participativa del Plan Estratégico de Desarrollo Municipal
Alcaldía de Manizales,	Colombia	R3-P3-00	Juventud y participación ciudadana: prácticas, formación y acciones
Ville de Marseille	France	R3-P9-00	A.M.I.S.T.A.D. Amélioration et Modernisation des Interventions des Services Techniques de l'Administration locale, outil de Démocratie.
Municipalidad de San Salvador de Jujuy	Argentina	R4-P2-00	Fortalecimiento institucional entre ciudades de América Latina y de la Unión Europea".
Ayuntamiento de Cádiz	Spain	R4-P6-00	Acciones para incentivar la economía de los barrios deprimidos.
Diputación Provincial de Huelva	Spain	R4-P8-00	Las ciudades como promotoras de intercambios entre PYMES de América Latina y la Unión Europea.
London Borough of Lewisham	UK	R4-P14-00	Integrated Community Action for Europe and Latin America.
Municipalidad de General Pueyrredon - Mar del Plata -	Argentina	R5-P1-99	Formación de operadores socio comunitarios para la atención de personas en situación de calle.
Consell Comarcal del Gironès	Spain	R5-P9-99	Ayuda a domicilio: conceptualización y modelos de gestión.
Prefeitura Municipal de São Paulo	Brazil	R5-P2-01	Empleo y ciudadanía activa de las mujeres
Ayuntamiento de Ciudad Victoria	Mexico	R7-P6-01	Poder local y Marco Jurídico para la Planificación y la Gestión Urbana.
Municipalidad de Arequipa	Peru	R8-P3-01	Integration of transport planning and urban planning within the scope of sustainability and Local Agenda 21.
Gemeente Utrecht	Netherlands	R8-P10-01	Integración de la bicicleta en la planeación del tránsito en ciudades medianas en América Latina y Europa. Un programa interactivo de entrenamiento y diseminación.

Conference on local partnership

In the context of the preparation of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union and of Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Mexico in May 2004, the European Commission has decided to organise a **Conference on local partnerships between the EU and Latin America: "State of play and Ways Forward for the Decentralised EU -Latin American Urban Policy co-operation"**.

The objectives of the Conference are twofold. First, to encourage debate on current international decentralised cooperation practices involving local authorities in the European Union and Latin America. Second, to propose guidelines to consolidate the future development of the cooperation based on the adjustment of its strategic design and methods of action to the prior-

ities and expectations of Latin American cities in the area of urban policies and on the optimal use of resources and management of decentralised cooperation.

To this end, the Commission published a call for proposals on 27 September 2003 for the coordination and organisation of this Conference. Based on the outcome of the proposals received, the Commission decided to award the corresponding grant for the organisation of the Conference to the Municipalidad de Valparaíso, in consortium with the Diputación de Barcelona.

The Conference will be attended by some thirty participants (local authority managers and experts with recognised experience in decentralised cooperation) who will work behind closed doors for two days. The Con-



Valparaíso. La Alcaldía, the official venue for the Conference

ference will be held in Valparaíso at the end of March 2004. The conclusions will be communicated to the authorities attending the Mexico Summit. In addition, the outcome will be disseminated to, among others, all the participants in the URB-AL Programme, by means of a basic document on decentralised cooperation between local authorities in the European Union and Latin America, published as a special edition of URB-AL/INFO. ■

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