



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
External Relations Directorate-General

**LATIN AMERICA**  
Horizontal Matters Unit



**URB-AL/INFO**



*Newsletter No. 12*

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August 2000

## Summary of the activities in the themed networks

### *Network No. 1 - Drugs and Towns*

<b>Co-ordination</b>	Municipalidad de Santiago de Chile
<b>Launch Seminar</b>	10 - 11 November 1997
<b>Annual Meetings of Network Members</b>	18 - 19 March 1999 13 - 14 April 2000
<b>Joint Projects</b>	8 selected projects
<b>Next deadline for submission of projects</b>	30 September 2000

### *Network No. 2 - Conservation of Historic Urban Contexts*

<b>Co-ordination</b>	Provincia di Vicenza
<b>Launch Seminar</b>	15 - 16 May 1999
<b>Annual Meetings of Network Members</b>	25 - 26 June 1999 20 - 22 July 2000 at Porto Alegre
<b>Joint Projects</b>	9 selected projects
<b>Next deadline for submission of projects</b>	31 December 2000

### *Network No. 3 - Democracy in Towns*

<b>Co-ordination</b>	Ville d'Issy-les-Moulineaux
<b>Launch Seminar</b>	18 - 19 February 1999
<b>First Annual Meeting</b>	9 - 11 May 2000 in Belo Horizonte
<b>Joint Projects</b>	4 selected projects
<b>Next deadline for submission of projects</b>	31 October 2000

### *Network No. 4 - The Town as a Promoter of Economic Development*

<b>Co-ordination</b>	Ayuntamiento de Madrid
<b>Launch Seminar</b>	23 - 24 September 1999
<b>First Annual Meeting</b>	28 - 29 September 2000
<b>Joint Projects</b>	15 projects submitted to the Commission
<b>Next deadline for submission of projects</b>	28 February 2001

### *Network No. 5 - Urban Social Policies*

<b>Co-ordination</b>	Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo
<b>Launch Seminar</b>	12 - 13 April 1999
<b>First Annual Meeting</b>	10 -11 April 2000
<b>Joint Projects</b>	7 selected projects
<b>Next deadline for submission of projects</b>	30 September 2000

### *Network No. 6 - Urban Environment*

<b>Co-ordination</b>	Ayuntamiento de Málaga
<b>Launch Seminar</b>	First half of 2001
<b>First deadline for submission of projects</b>	5 months after the seminar

### *Network No. 7 - Management and Control of Urbanisation*

<b>Co-ordination</b>	Intendencia Municipal de Rosario
<b>Launch Seminar</b>	8 -9 November 2000
<b>First deadline for submission of projects</b>	30 April 2001

### *Network No. 8 - Control of Urban Mobility*

<b>Co-ordination</b>	Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart
<b>Launch Seminar</b>	19 – 20 October 2000
<b>First deadline for submission of projects</b>	31 March 2001

**First Annual Meeting of Network No. 5, "Urban Social Policies",  
co-ordinated by the Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo**

On 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April, the first annual working meeting of Network No. 5, "Urban Social Policies", was held in Montevideo. Some 150 people from 53 towns took part: 44 from Latin America and 9 from the European Union, as well as 8 external partners, special guests, authorities and officials from the Intendencia de Montevideo, representatives of local government bodies, national public and private institutions, NGOs and the academic sector. Two international experts and members of the URB-AL Technical Secretariat and the European Commission Delegation to Uruguay also attended.

The meeting consisted of plenary sessions and workshops. During the plenary sessions on the first day, a report was produced on the position of the Network, and a report on its activities, in particular the first call for joint projects, under the auspices of the Co-ordination Department of the Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo. In addition, a report was provided by the Technical Secretariat on the URB-AL Programme and the present situation of the other networks. A speech was also made on the management of the Joint Projects and their multiple aspects - operative, technical and financial.

On the other hand, the international expert, José Luis Coraggio, presented a report on the "Update on Urban Social Policies. New Challenges and Prospects".

The Workshops on the first day took the form of meetings of those taking part in the approved projects with their respective co-ordinators. It should be noted that the co-ordinators of 6 out of the 7 approved projects attended. During these meetings, various agreements for implementation were formalised.

The central purpose of the following day's work was to launch the second call for joint projects. In the course of the morning, international expert Klaus Bodemer presented the report: "Strategic Guidelines for the New Projects", after which, the work of the workshops started. At the end of the day, another plenary was held to pool the agreements of the various meetings.

The participants worked in 5 workshops, which were organised on the basis of the following themes:

1. Employment, unemployment, popular economy strategies, informality.
2. Spatial segregation in towns, welfare housing, marginal settlements, slums.
3. Training and management in municipal welfare policies with male / female aspects and participation by the citizens.
4. Health, education and cultural policies and programmes.
5. Policies and Programmes for children, young people, the elderly and the disabled.

As a result of the agreements worked out in the Workshops, ideas were produced for projects and reference towns for formulation and presentation, the deadline for which is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2000.

The ideas for projects highlighted for preparation of proposals within the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Convocation were presented as follows:

- Single window on employment
- Local action for employment

- Spatial segregation in towns
- Creation of an interactive forum of experience, models of popular participation and construction of citizenship towards equal opportunities.
- Creation of a school for Social Management with equal opportunities.
- Strategic or integral planning of cultural development.
- Urban social integration and identity
- Integral programme of care for the family and the community
- Reproductive and sexual health of adolescent women
- Implementation and monitoring of health promotion in a region
- Health welfare communications network
- Domestic violence, intra-family assistance
- Senior citizens, innovative social programmes

**Network No. 5 Joint Projects approved by the European Commission:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>“Training of socio-community workers to care for the homeless”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Design and implementation of new welfare intervention strategies making it possible to handle emerging problems of social marginalisation in the towns. Generation of innovative training projects and/or programmes designed for the welfare protagonists working with the homeless. Availability of human resources, theoretical and technical training, orienting actions at community welfare level within the framework of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in General and the International Convention on Children’s Rights in particular.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Municipalidad de General Pueyrredón - Argentina.
<b>Participants</b>	5            EU: 2    E (2) LA: 3    ARG (2), BRA (1)

<b>Title</b>	<b>“Economic Solidarity: a growth sector”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	To investigate new ways of organising economic activities and the new structuring of employment, using as a study reference the new opportunities and possibilities which are arising and which cover the new framework of the welfare economy.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Prefeitura Municipal de Rio Claro – Brazil.
<b>Participants</b>	9            EU: 2    E (1), F (1) LA: 7    ARG (3), BRA (2), ECU (1), PER (1)

<b>Title</b>	<b>“Integral Employment Policies at Local Level”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	To design and implement structures, actions and tools at local level which generate employment prospects from an integral standpoint.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Ayuntamiento de Bilbao – Spain.
<b>Participants</b>	12          EU: 3    E (2), F (1) LA: 9    ARG (4), BRA (3), PER (1), ECU (1)

<b>Title</b>	<b>“Decentralisation and citizens’ participation”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	The project relates to the problems arising from the dual process of decentralisation and globalisation facing today’s towns and facing municipal authorities with a decision-making process which they cannot directly influence and a need for new municipal organisation which enables them to act in terms of decentralisation, be it vertical (central government – local government) or horizontal (public bodies – welfare agencies). The project has three horizontal lines: Public initiative, Equal Opportunities, Sustainability of social policies.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Junta de Extremadura – Spain.
<b>Participants</b>	13 EU: 3 E (2), B (1) LA: 10 ARG (3), BOL (1), CHI (1), ECU (1), PER (2), URU (1), VEN (1)

<b>Title</b>	<b>“Help in the home: conceptualisation and management models”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Definition of Home Help Services (SAD) within the welfare policies designed for the elderly. Comparative analysis of the various forms of SAD in the participating countries. Management models used in each country: analysis and study of advantages and disadvantages. Establishment of an “ <i>Experimental transnational model of SAD</i> ”, covering both design and management
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Consell Comarcal del Gironès - Spain.
<b>Participants</b>	9 EU: 4 E (3), F (1) LA: 5 ARG (1), URU (1), PER (1), VEN (1), BRA (1)

<b>Title</b>	<b>“MEDIA-MENTE”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	To combat urban alienation by social mediation (through a research plan, a training course for social mediators and seminars among the cities participating in the project)
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Regione Emilia Romagna. Italy.
<b>Participants</b>	6 EU: 3 I (2), NL (1) LA: 3 URU (1), ARG (1), BRA (1)

<b>Title</b>	<b>“Health Promotion: an Instrument for Active Citizenship”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	To promote active citizenship by encouraging, within the region, the ability to create health projects, the outcome of the agreement between the public and private sectors and the living forces of civil society.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Comune di Torino. Italy.
<b>Participants</b>	6 EU: 2 I (1), F (1) LA: 4 ARG (2), URU (1), ECU (1)

**Second Annual Meeting of Network No. 1 “Drugs and Towns”,  
co-ordinated by the Municipalidad de Santiago de Chile**

On 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April 2000, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the “Drugs and Towns” Network took place. The event was attended by more than 70 representatives of local governments and organisations with an interest in the topic.

The official opening of the event was held at the Palacio Municipal by Mr. Lorenzo Antón-Santos, Head of the European Commission Delegation in Chile, and by Mr. Jaime Ravinet, Mayor of Santiago.

During the opening ceremony, in addition to the representatives of the town councils of the European Union and Latin America (with participants from Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia and Uruguay), a large group of representatives of local authorities from Chile was present.

Carlos Varas, International Relations Director, took the chair at the various working sessions, with the assistance of Juan Leyton, in charge of the co-ordination unit, and expert Iban de Rementeria. The work done by the network so far as presented, as was a progress report on the Projects approved by the European Commission. On this occasion, the importance was confirmed of the incorporation of damage limitation policies at local level as a priority aim of the network’s work.

Gustavo Hurtado (the Municipal Governor of Buenos Aires) gave a presentation on the damage limitation topic, based on analysis of the Argentine experience. Following this, Mauricio Sepulveda (Santiago Prevention Programme) presented some considerations on the limits of the consumption repression policies, on the basis of Chilean experience.

Of the 8 projects approved by the European Commission, two had started work: **“Project for training relevant intermunicipal action networks”** coordinated by the Municipalidad de La Florida (Chile) and **“Modification of Local Drug Addiction Intervention Policies”**, coordinated by the Consejo Comarcal de l’Alt Empordá, Girona, Spain. The considerable results achieved by La Florida (available on the website of the Asociación Chilena de Municipalidades) after only 4 months’ work are remarkable. The co-ordinators of the other approved projects described their experience in setting up their various activities.

In order to promote guidelines for the preparation of new projects, Ibán de Rementería, the network expert, proposed a theoretical consideration based on the document “Proposed themes and priorities in matters of prevention of drug abuse”.

There are 4 main areas for consideration:

- Pre-emptive prevention (the “rave” youth culture).
- Conflicts within communities due to drug use.
- Micro-trafficking in drugs.
- Male/female perspectives.

Iban Rementeria’s document, as well as the information on the ideas for projects, is available on the network’s website ([www.urb-al.cl](http://www.urb-al.cl)).

The deadline for submission of projects in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Competition to the European Commission is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2000.

**First Annual Meeting of Network No. 3 “Democracy in Towns”  
Co-ordinated by the Ville d'Issy-les-Moulineaux**

Within the framework of the cooperation agreement signed by Issy-les-Moulineaux and Belo Horizonte in October 1999, the Prefecture of Belo Horizonte, a member of Network No. 3 “Democracy in Towns” welcomed the annual working meeting of the members of the network. This meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May at Belo Horizonte in Brazil. This cooperation is an example of the aims of the URB-AL Programme, in other words, the development of direct, durable relations between the towns in the network.

The meeting was held as part of a set of international activities being carried out in Belo Horizonte during the same period. The official opening of these events took place at the Legislative Assembly of the State of Minas Gerais on 9<sup>th</sup> May, in the presence of top officials of the State and the City.

The Network started work on 10<sup>th</sup> May, with speeches by Celio de Castro, Mayor of Belo Horizonte, André Santini, Mayor of Issy-les-Moulineaux and Alain Rouquié, the French Ambassador to Brazil. There were 90 participants at the meeting, including the mayors of Lima, Chinautla and Huanta, and the President of the Provincia di Vicenza, which coordinates Network No. 2 of the URB-AL Programme.

During the plenary sessions, the past and future activities of the network were presented, with speeches by those in charge of the Network co-ordination unit, the person in charge of the URBAL Programme at the European Commission and the experts from the Technical Secretariat. On the other hand, there was a brief presentation of the joint projects of the network approved by the European Commission.

The reports by the various experts made it possible to handle the basic themes. The contribution of Miguel Azcueta, Regidor Metropolitano of Lima, on “Democracy in towns – New challenges, new prospects” and the presentation of specific experiences in terms of the new information technologies were useful contributions to the discussion.

In order to prepare for new projects, the work continued in 4 workshops, which gave rise to many ideas for projects. These were pooled during the last working session and can be seen on the network's web site ([www.issy.com/urb-al](http://www.issy.com/urb-al)).

Workshop 1 Citizen's participation with regard to the political challenge of “urban renewal”.

Workshop 2 The new implications of education and training in the construction of local democratic processes in terms of mobilisation of the citizens.

Workshop 3 Do information and communications technologies participate in the strengthening and development of local democracy?

Workshop 4 Conflicts in towns.

The event's closing ceremony included speeches by Messrs. Santana, representing the Mayor of Belo Horizonte, André Santini, and Rolf Timans, Head of the European Commission Delegation in Brazil.

The project proposals will be handed over to the network co-ordination unit before the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2000.

**Network No. 3 Joint Projects approved by the European Commission:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>School of Neighbours. Citizen's participation"</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	To construct room for convergence between the Town and civil society for the participation of the citizens in joint decision making on questions relating to improving the quality of life in the town, in order to consolidate fair, democratic systems guaranteeing the exercise of the rights and obligations of the citizens with responsible participation
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Municipalidad de Posadas, Misiones- Argentina
<b>Participants</b>	6        2 EU    (1 FR, 1 PT) 4 LA    (2 ARG, 1CHI, 1 PER)

<b>Title</b>	<b>"Participational formulation of the strategic plan for municipal development."</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	To reinforce the citizen's participation in the preparation and management of strategic municipal development plans based on participational formulation of strategic development plans at two regional levels: - zones and parishes (urban and rural) - municipal, cantonal
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Municipalidad de Cuenca – Ecuador
<b>Participants</b>	9        3 EU    (1B, 1 FR, 1 I) 6 LA    (3 ARG, 1ECU, 1 MEX, 1 PER)

<b>Title</b>	<b>"Consultation as a Mechanism to Reinforce Democracy in the Town"</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	- To improve the governability of towns. - To increase the quantity and quality of the participation of the citizens in the creation and implementation of municipal policies.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Municipalidad de Quetzaltenango – Guatemala
<b>Participants</b>	7        3 EU (2 FR, 1 UK) 4 LA (1 ARG, 1GUA, 1 MEX, 1PER)

<b>Title</b>	<b>"Incorporation of community identity factors in the construction of local democracy"</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	To develop and consolidate the processes of rapprochement of local government and the citizens, through recognition of the importance of community identity factors such as race, tradition, language, religion or origin of the citizens in the process of the construction of local democracy.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Ayuntamiento Constitucional de Zaragoza, Veracruz - Mexico
<b>Participants</b>	10       5 EU    (1 E, 2 FR, 1 I, 1 UK) 5 LA    (1 COL, 1 ECU, 1 GUA, 1 MEX, 1 PER)



<b>News in Brief</b>
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**Network No. 2, “Conservation of Historic Urban Contexts”**, co-ordinated by the Provincia di Vicenza, will be holding its second annual meeting at Porto Alegre (Brazil) on 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2000. The European Commission has selected five joint projects for co-funding from the 8 submitted in response to the second call.

<b>Title</b>	<b>“Tourist Routes and the Heritage of Italian Immigration”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	Development of Projects and Methodologies of Rural Tourism Routes based on the Historic and Cultural Heritage.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Prefeitura Municipal de Caxias do Sul - Brazil
<b>Participants</b>	8            4 EU    (4 I) 4 LA    (4 BRA)

<b>Title</b>	<b>“Centre – District and Local Know-how”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	The basic aim underlying the whole project will be to define the new parameters of the Historic Context which will make it possible to formulate strategies for ad hoc territorial approximation and interpretation for this continuously-changing urban segment. We consider that these parameters fall within the area of Know-how which history presents to us.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Municipalidad de Arica – Chile
<b>Participants</b>	8            4 EU    E (2), I (1), P (1) 4 LA    BRA (2), CHI (2)

<b>Title</b>	<b>“Port Towns and Historic Centre”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	To generate policies, prepare diagnoses and design instruments for the conservation and revitalisation of the historic centres of port towns.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Municipalidad de Valparaíso – Chile
<b>Participants</b>	7            EU: 2    E (1), I (1) LA: 5    ARG (1), BRA (1), CUB (1), CHI (1), URU (1)

<b>Title</b>	<b>“Historic Centres, a Habitable Heritage”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	To implement integral solutions of development and conservation of Historic Centres on the basis of improved habitability, with the emphasis on housing and the revitalisation of the cultural heritage.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Ayuntamiento de Guadalajara – Mexico
<b>Participants</b>	14          EU: 8    E (6), I (2) LA: 6    COL (2), ECU (1), MEX (2), URU (1)

<b>Title</b>	<b>“Accessibility and Mobility in Historic Contexts”</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	To promote municipal mechanisms for the distribution and control of systems of accessibility and mobility in the historic centres able to reconcile the quality of life and modern technology within the logic of sustainable development.
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Comune di Ragusa – Italy
<b>Participants</b>	7            EU: 4    I (2), F (1), E (1) LA: 3    SAL (1), NIC (1), URU (1)

**Network No. 4 “The Town as Promoter of Local Development”, co-ordinated by the Ayuntamiento de Madrid**

Five months after the seminar launching its activities, which took place in September 1999, Network No. 4 presented 15 proposals for joint projects. These proposals, pending the decision of the European Commission, are available on the Network No. 4 website (<http://www.munimadrid.es/urbal/html/homr.html>). The Network's first annual meeting is to be held in Madrid on 28 - 29 September 2000.

**Change of Co-ordination for Network No. 6 “Urban Environment”**

For administrative reasons, the Brussels Capital Region cannot co-ordinate Network No. 6. The European Commission has allocated co-ordination of Network No. 6 “Urban Environment” to the Ayuntamiento de Malaga, Spain. The towns which have an interest in taking part in the network's activities can contact the person in charge of the co-ordination unit:

Mr. Pedro Marín Cots  
Ayuntamiento de Málaga – Gerencia de Urbanismo  
Avda. Cervantes 4  
E-29016 Málaga  
Tel. +34 95 213 54 26 / 213 54 32  
Fax: +34 95 213 54 20  
E-mail: pmarin@ayto-malaga.es

**Network 7 – Management and Control of Urbanisation, co-ordinated by the Intendencia Municipal de Rosario, Argentina**

Confirmation of the dates of the network launch seminar to take place in Rosario on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2000.

**Network No. 8 “Control of Urban Mobility”, co-ordinated by the Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart, Germany**

Confirmation of the dates of the network launch seminar to take place in Stuttgart on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October 2000.

**Status of the joint projects**

Half way through the year 2000, the URB-AL Programme has 28 joint projects approved for co-funding by the European Commission.

**Second Biennial Meeting of the URB-AL Programme**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Meeting on “Social Integration in Cities”, co-ordinated by the Prefeitura da Cidade do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will be held in Rio de Janeiro on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2001.

**“Modification of Local Drug Addiction Intervention Policies”, Project**, co-ordinated by the Consejo Comarcal de l'Alt Empordá, Girona.

The Project Co-ordinator advises that the dates of the First Seminar for members are 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September in Alt Empordá. All the information on the seminar and the project is available at [www.altemporda.ddgi.es/urbal](http://www.altemporda.ddgi.es/urbal).

## Our speaker is

### **Miguel Azcueta Gorostiza**

Two questions taken from an interview published in "NOVAMERICA" No. 85, March 2000, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

*Miguel Azcueta Gorostiza is a Peruvian who has held the post of District Mayor of Villa El Salvador for three terms. He now holds the position of Regidor Metropolitano of Lima for the term from 1999 to 2002.*

#### **What do you think of "local power"? How do you understand it?**

*[...] I believe that political action is related to one's conscience as a citizen, as the active, thinking part of the society to which one belongs. [...] I therefore like to leave the personal area: this is an option, an understanding of society and how it works, and also a vision of the future which consists of specific aims, proposals and plans to be carried through. And talking of democracy, one must try to share this understanding, this vision and this will with many others, to try to achieve these aims together which, at this specific moment, appear to us the best for our society, not imposing them but sharing them with sincerity. This is where the tolerance which is the basis of democracy is seen. [...] Our experience at Villa El Salvador has shown us that when a people really takes on objectives, nobody can stop it. The objectives, knowingly assumed, become the collective conscience and the conscience in the collective will and this is "power" in its real sense. We have been basing our work on the various integral development plans, which, with difficulties and setbacks, have mostly been achieved. And this gives the people great security, they build their own identity and self-esteem for a development of a new type, like the one we have dreamt of.*

#### **Can experience at local level be combined with integral national or Latin American development?**

*Our real experience in Villa El Salvador demonstrates that it can be done. Since the birth of Villa El Salvador, we have kept saying that "Villa El Salvador is not an island" and this has had very specific consequences. We have always been linked with the national popular movement to such an extent that has become a benchmark for Peru. I'm not talking of my work, but of a whole people which has won its own space: in the 28 years of recent history of Peru, Villa El Salvador has always been there, for good or ill: for major victories in social, economic and political matters even in the years of violence and terror we had to live through. And, starting out from this own space, to construct an international dimension as well. [...] Until today, Villa El Salvador has maintained a certain level of relations, presence, visits by friends from other countries in a way that has not been done by any other popular district in Peru or possibly in Latin America. [...] Definitely, I believe that if one can, from the local end, have an international and national presence and a contribution different from so-called "globalisation", while it is unquestionable that we are becoming every day more universalised, talking positively, it will be always recognising the differences, or, to put it better, the contributions of each people from local level.*

*This is the best way of not falling into the trap of the present globalisation, which is so unequal, so unfair and so high-handed*

...

## INTERREG AND URBAN 1994-1999: THE FIRST LESSONS

***A few weeks before the approval of the final guidelines for the Interreg and Urban programmes for the 2000-2006 period, the Commission made an initial balance of the application of the actions funded between 1994 and 1999 within the framework of these two community initiatives.***

The aim of **Interreg II** is to strengthen cooperation between border regions (Section IIA), complete some energy networks (Section IIB) and contribute to a more evenly-balanced territorial order (Section IIC).

The first status report shows that the application of the programmes has really started a rapprochement between many regions with institutional structures which were often very different. The programmes have made it possible to develop the particularly backward border zones and has contributed to the process of membership of applicant countries thanks to the transfer of technical knowledge. In more concrete terms, Interreg has contributed to the development of the transport, tourism and training sectors and, as a result, the creation of jobs. Nevertheless, in many cases, the actual cross-border nature of Interreg is not yet evident.

In order to revitalise districts which are undergoing crises, the **Urban** programmes are characterised by the consideration of all the dimensions of urban life in order to create a true dynamism of local development.

According to the analysis for the last five years, part of the success of Urban lies in the active participation of the inhabitants in the projects for the regeneration of their district. All the programmes fall within the long term development strategies supporting new economic activities or stimulating the growth of those already existing. In the social area, some specific projects are funded in favour of the most disadvantaged groups, in particular services assisting in obtaining jobs or housing.

These two summary documents can be obtained from the Inforegio site <http://inforegio.cec.eu.int/news> or requested by fax from: +32.2.296 60 03.

*Inforegio News No. 72 (February 2000)*

## URBANRED

URBANRED is an initiative promoted by a group of teachers from the Departamento de Urbanística y Ordenación del Territorio at the School of Architecture in Madrid, supported by teachers from various countries and open to collaboration from all volunteers, whose aim is to provide access to information on town planning, urban design and regional planning available in various Hispano-Portuguese (Castilian, Catalan, Portuguese) speaking institutions to contribute to creating a disciplinary community and a discussion forum for professionals, teachers, administrators and students, on both sides of the Atlantic. (<http://www.urbanred.aq.upm.es/>).

**NEWROPEANS CONGRESS 2000**

The Newropeans Congress 2000 "New Europe, New Challenges, New Generations" will be held in Paris on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2000, under the aegis of the French Presidency of the European Union. The purpose of the congress is to prepare Europe for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It will be attended by citizens and professionals from all sectors of society (institutions, business, civil society). To obtain more information on this event, send an e-mail to [contact@newropeans.org](mailto:contact@newropeans.org) or visit the website [www.newropeans.org](http://www.newropeans.org).

**ASIA URBS PROGRAMME**

The Asia Urbs Programme is the Asian equivalent of the URB-AL Programme. To obtain information, contact the Programme Secretariat.

**Asia Urbs Secretariat**

205, rue Belliard  
 B-1040 Brussels (Belgium)  
 Tel +32 (0)2 230 76 88  
 Fax +32 (0)2 230 69 73  
 e-mail: [secretariat@asia-urbs.com](mailto:secretariat@asia-urbs.com)  
 webpage: <http://www.asia-urbs.com>

**USEFUL ADDRESSES FOR THE URB-AL PROGRAMME****GENERAL INFORMATION**

<http://www.urb-al.com>

**European Commission**

External Relations Directorate-General  
 Latin America Department  
 Horizontal Matters Unit  
 Rue de la Loi, 200 (Oficina CHAR 12/83)  
 B-1049 Brussels - Belgium  
 Tel.: +32 2.295 12 29  
 Fax: +32 2.299 39 41

**URB-AL Technical Secretariat**

Avenue de Broqueville, 116 - Bte 6  
 B-1200 Brussels - Belgium  
 Tel.: +32 2.775 93 00  
 Fax: +32 2.775 93 09  
[secretariat@urb-al.com](mailto:secretariat@urb-al.com)

**SECOND BIENNIAL MEETING****Co-ordination: Rio de Janeiro City Council**

Mr. Cláudio García de Souza  
 Coordinator  
 Prefeitura da Cidade do Rio de Janeiro  
 Relações Internacionais e Cerimonial  
 Palacio da Cidade  
 Rua São Clemente, 360 - Botafoga  
 22260-000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ (Brazil)  
 Tel.: +55 21 2862239 / 2861045  
 Fax: +55 21 2869246  
[urbalrio@pcrj.rj.gov.br](mailto:urbalrio@pcrj.rj.gov.br)

**THEMED NETWORKS****Network No. 1 "Drugs and Towns", co-ordinated by the Municipalidad de Santiago de Chile**

Mr. Carlos Varas  
 Director para las Relaciones Internacionales  
 Alcaldía de Santiago de Chile  
 Programa URB-AL - Red n° 1  
 Plaza de Armas s/n, Casilla 52-D

Santiago (Chile)  
 Tel.: +56 2 639 26 91  
 Fax: +56 2 632 19 62  
 stgoint@reuna.cl  
<http://www.urb-al.cl>

**Network No. 2, "Conservation of Historic Urban Contexts", co-ordinated by the Provincia di Vicenza**

Dr. Franco Pepe  
 Capo di Gabinetto  
 Amministrazione Provinciale di Vicenza  
 Programma URB-AL - Rete n° 2  
 Contrà Gazzolle, 1

I-36100 Vicenza (Italia)  
 Tel.: +39 0444 399208  
 Fax: +39 0444 327825  
 urb-al.rete2@provincia.vicenza.it  
<http://www.urb-al.net/rete2>

**Network No. 3 "Democracy in Towns" coordinated by the Ville d'Issy-Les-Moulineaux**

Mrs. Marie Virapatirin  
 Programa URB-AL - Red n° 3  
 Hôtel de Ville - Bureau de la Co-ordination  
 62, rue du Général Leclerc  
 F-92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux (France)

Tel.: +33 1 40957920 & 40956772  
 Fax: +33 1 40959725  
 urb-al@wanadoo.fr  
<http://www.issy.com/urb-al>

**Network No. 4 "The Town as Promoter of Local Development", co-ordinated by the Ayuntamiento de Madrid**

Mrs. Mercedes de la Merced Monge  
 Primera Teniente de Alcalde  
 Ayuntamiento de Madrid  
 Programa URB-AL - Red n° 4  
 Calle Mayor n° 72 - 1°

E-28005 Madrid (España)  
 Tel.: +34 91.588 13 82  
 Fax: +34 91.588 17 52  
 merced@munimadrid.es  
<http://www.munimadrid.es/urbal/html/home.html>

**Network No. 5, "Urban Social Policies", co-ordinated by the Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo**

Mrs. Marta Ponce de León  
 Directora de Cooperación y Relaciones Internacionales  
 Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo  
 Programa URB-AL - Red n° 5  
 18 de Julio 1360 - Piso 25

11200 Montevideo (Uruguay)  
 Tel.: +598 2.901 40 80 / 908 64 22  
 Fax: +598 2.908 23 08  
 red5@piso9.imm.gub.uy  
<http://montevideo.gub.uy/urbal.htm>

**Network No. 6 "Urban Environment", co-ordinated by the Ayuntamiento de Málaga**

Mr. Pedro Marín Cots  
 Jefe de Servicio de Programas  
 Ayuntamiento de Málaga-Gerencia de Urbanismo  
 Programa URB-AL - Red n° 6  
 Avda. Cervantes 4

E-29016 Málaga - Spain  
 Tel: +34 952 13 59 42  
 Fax: +34 952 13 54 20  
 pmarin@ayto-malaga.es

**Network 7 - Management and Control of Urbanisation, coordinated by the Intendencia Municipal de Rosario**

Ing. Roberto Miguel Lifschitz  
 Secretario General  
 Programa URB-AL - Red n° 7  
 Av. Belgrano 328 Piso 3°  
 2000 Rosario (Argentina)

Tel.: +54 341 4213751 / 4213014  
 Fax: +54 341 4215246  
 urb-al@rosario.gov.ar  
<http://www.rosario.gov.ar/urbal>

**Network No. 8 "Control of Urban Mobility", co-ordinated by the Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart**

Ing. Wolfgang Forderer  
 Co-ordinator  
 URB-AL Programm - Netz Nr. 8  
 Nadlerstraße, 4  
 D-70173 Stuttgart (Germany)

Tel: +49 711 216 87 99 / 216 87 98  
 Fax: +49 711 216 87 97  
 urb-al@stuttgart.de  
<http://www.stuttgart.de/europa/urb-al>

## Offices of the European Commission in the Member States Delegations of the European Commission in Latin America

### Vertretung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Bertha-von-Stuttner-Platz 2-4  
D - 53113 Bonn  
Tel: +49 228 530 09-0  
Fax: +49 228 530 09-50

### Vertretung in der BRD in Berlin

Unter den Linden 78  
D - 10117 Berlin  
Tel: +49 30 228 020 00  
Fax: +49 30 228 022 22

### Vertretung in der BDR in München

Erhardtstraße 27  
D - 80331 München  
Tel: +49 89 202 10 11  
Fax: +49 89 202 10 15

### Vertretung in Österreich

Kärtner Ring 5-7  
A - 1010 Wien  
Tel: +43 1 516 18  
Fax: +43 1 513 42 25

### Bureau en Belgique/in België

Rue Archimède/Archimedesstraat, 73  
B - 1000 Bruxelles/Brussel  
Tel: +32 2 295 38 44  
Fax: +32 2 295 01 66

### Repræsentation i Danmark

Højbrohus, Østergade 61  
Postbox 144  
DK - 1004 København K  
Tel: +45 33 14 41 40  
Fax: +45 33 11 12 03

### Representación en España

Paseo de la Castellana, 46  
E - 28046 Madrid  
Tel: +34 91 423 80 00  
Fax: +34 91 576 03 87  
*Representación en Barcelona*  
Edificio Atlántico  
Av. Diagonal, 407 bis, planta 18  
E - 08008 Barcelona  
Tel: +34-93 415 81 77  
Fax: +34-93 415 63 11

### Suomen edustusto

Pohjoisesplanadi 31  
Postbox 1250  
FIN - 00101Helsinki  
Tel: +358 9 6226 544  
Fax: +358 9 656 728

### Représentation en France

288 Bd Saint-Germain  
F - 75007 Paris  
Tel: +33 1 40 63 38 00  
Fax: +33 1 45 56 94 17/18/19

### Bureau à Marseille

2 rue Henri-Barbusse (CMCI)  
F - 13241 Marseille Cedex 01  
Tel: +33 91 91 46 00  
Fax: +33 91 90 98 07

### Γραφείο στην Ελλάδα

2 Vassilissis Sofias  
GR-10674 Athina  
Tel: +30 1 727 21 00  
Fax: +30 1 724 46 20

### Representation in Ireland

18 Dawson Street  
IRL - Dublin 2  
Tel: +353 1 662 51 13  
Fax: +353 1 662 51 18

### Rappresentanza in Italia

Via Poli 29  
I - 00187 Roma  
Tel: +39 06 699 991  
Fax: +39 06 679 16 58, 67936 52  
*Ufficio di Milano*  
Corso Magenta 59  
I - 20123 Milano  
Tel: +39 02 467 51 41  
Fax: +39 02 481 85 43

### Représentation au Luxembourg

Bâtiment Jean Monnet  
rue Alcide De Gasperi  
L - 2920 Luxembourg  
Tel: +352 43 01-349 25  
Fax: +352 43 01-344 33

### Bureau in Nederland

Korte Vijverberg 5  
NL - 2513 AB Den Haag  
Postbus 30465  
NL - 2500 GL Den Haag  
Tel: +31 70 346 93 26  
Fax: +31 70 364 66 19

### Gabinete em Portugal

Centro Europeu Jean Monnet  
Largo Jean Monnet 1-10°  
P - 1269-068 Lisboa  
Tel: +351 21 350 98 00  
Fax: +351 21 350 98 01/2/3

### Representation in United Kingdom

Jean Monnet House  
8 Storey's Gate  
U.K. - London SW1P 3AT  
Tel: +44 20 7973 1992  
Fax: +44 20 7973 1900, 7973 1910  
*Representation in Northern Ireland*  
Windsor House  
9/15 Bedford Street  
UK - Belfast BT2 7EG  
Tel: +44 1232 24 07 08  
Fax: +44 1232 24 82 41

### Representation in Northern Ireland

Windsor House  
9/15 Bedford Street  
UK - Belfast BT2 7EG  
Tel: +44 1232 24 07 08  
Fax: +44 1232 24 82 41

### Representation in Wales

4, Cathedral Road  
UK - Cardiff CF1 9SG  
Tel: +44 1222 37 16 31  
Fax: +44 1222 39 54 89

### Representation in Scotland

9 Alva Street  
UK - Edinburgh EH2 4PH  
Tel: +44 131 225 20 58  
Fax: +44 131 226 41 05

### Delegation i Sverige

Box 7323  
Nybrogatan 11  
S - 10390 Stockholm  
Tel: +46 8 562 444 11  
Fax: +46 8 562 444 12

### Argentina

Ayacucho 1537 - 1112 Buenos Aires  
Casilla de Correo 2892 - 1000 Buenos Aires  
Tel: +54 11 48 01 15 94  
Fax: +54 11 48 05 37 59

### Bolivia

Sanchez Lima 2440 - La Paz  
Casilla 10 747 - La Paz  
Tel: +591 2 41 76 25  
Fax: +591 2 41 40 89

### Brasil

SHIS Q1 07, Bloco "A". Lago Sul  
70485-901 Brasilia - D.F.  
Tel: +55 61 248 31 22  
Fax: +55 61 248 07 00

### Chile

Av. Américo Vespucio Sur 1835 - Santiago 9  
Casilla 10093 - Santiago 9  
Tel: +56 2 206 02 67  
Fax: +56 2 228 25 71

### Colombia/Ecuador

Calle 97 n° 22-44 - Santafé de Bogotá  
AP Aéreo 94046, 114 - Santafé de Bogotá  
Tel: +57 1 621 60 43/236 90 40  
Fax: +57 1 610 00 59

### Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Panamá

Ofiplaza del Este, Edificio D, 3er Piso de la  
Rotonda de la Bandera, 50 mts oeste  
Apartado 836, 1007 Centro Colón - San José  
Tel: +506 283 29 59  
Fax: +506 283 29 60/1

### Guatemala

14 Calle 3-51, Zona 10, Edificio Murano,  
Nivel 14 OF.1401 - Ciudad de Guatemala  
Tel: +502 366 58 12/14  
Fax: +502 366 58 16

### México

Paseo de la Reforma 1675  
Lomas de Chapultepec  
C.P. 11001 México D.F.  
Tel: +52 5 540 33 45/6/7, 202 86 22  
Fax: +52 5 540 65 64

### Nicaragua

De Plaza El Sol una cuadra al sur, una y  
media abajo. Managua  
Tel: +505 270 44 99  
Fax: +505 270 44 84

### Perú

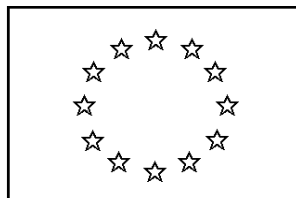
Manuel Gonzáles Olaechea 247  
San Isidro - Lima 27  
Casilla 180 792 - Lima 18  
Tel: +511 212 11 35, 221 81 86  
Fax: +511 422 87 78

### Uruguay/Paraguay

Boulevard Artigas 1257 - Montevideo  
Tel: +598 2 400 75 80  
Fax: +598 2 401 20 08

### Venezuela

Edificio Comisión Europea, Avenida Orinoco,  
Las Mercedes, Caracas 1060  
Tel: +58 2 991 51 33, 991 59 66  
Fax: +58 2 993 55 73



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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Directorate General External Relations  
Directorate for Latin America  
URB-AL programme  
rue de la Loi, 200  
B-1049 Brussels