

IN THIS ISSUE

Since the evaluation of the last call for proposals (October 2004), 21 B projects have been approved by the Commission. Most of these are now in the phase of execution. The projects are a consequence of type-A joint projects and cover a wide range of themes. In this issue we present 9 B projects ranging from the renovation of the historic centre of Montevideo by its inhabitants to improving safety for cyclists, and even to the establishment of a virtual centre for the prevention and treatment of domestic violence in various cities of both regions.

In the second half of 2004, the Commission launched two new initiatives: the establishment of the **Observatory for local decentralised cooperation EU-LA** and the **Documentation Centre for the URB-AL programme**.

The Observatory for local decentralised cooperation, the main objective of which is to compile and disseminate information on decentralised cooperation, will be set up and coordinated by the consortium formed by the Diputación de Barcelona and the Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo.

The Documentation Centre, the purpose of which is to compile and disseminate accumulated URB-AL know-how, in particular methods of "best practice", will be managed by the consortium formed by the Ayuntamiento de Málaga and the Municipalidad de Valparaíso.

The function of these two new bodies is to diffuse the many good practices which have emerged from the programme, and to help ensure the durability of their results.

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EuropeAid
Cooperation office –
Head of Unit B2



Montevideo. Renovated facade in the framework of the Project *Ciudad Vieja Renueva*.

JOINT PROJECTS SELECTED

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2004 – 31 OCTOBER (REFERENCE EUROPEAID/I13113/C/G)

Coordination of joint projects

TYPE "A" JOINT PROJECTS			
Selected coordinator	Country	Project title	Project No
Prefeitura Municipal de Belo Horizonte	BRA	Instrumentos de articulação entre planeamento territorial e Orçamento Participativo	R9-A6-04
Ayuntamiento de Granada	ESP	Integración de los inmigrantes en la ciudad como forma de combate de la pobreza	R10-A12-04
Municipalidad de General San Martín	ARG	Intercambio de metodologías e indicadores para la evaluación de las políticas sociales de empleo en las ciudades de América Latina y la Unión Europea	R10-A14-04
Prefeitura Municipal de Piracicaba	BRA	Políticas e Ações Municipais de Segurança Alimentar: realidade, limites e possibilidades da interstorialidade	R10-A17-04
Municipio de Querétaro	MEX	Formación de personal de municipios para utilizar los programas de cooperación internacional como herramientas de combate a la pobreza en sus proyectos locales	R10-A18-04
Comune di Latina	ITA	Manual para o desenvolvimento urbano dos assentamentos precarios à dimensão da criança	R10-A19-04
Ilustre Municipalidad de Viña del Mar	CHI	El ausentismo escolar como indicador de violación de los derechos humanos: un reto a las políticas públicas	R10-A20-04
Consell Comarcal de l'Alt Empordà	ESP	La mujer inmigrada. Igualdad, participación y liderazgo en el ámbito local	R12-A8-04
Stadt Graz	AUS	Consejo local / internacional de mujeres jóvenes	R12-A10-04
Diputación Provincial de Málaga	ESP	LIDERAL	R12-A12-04
Diputación Provincial de Huelva	ESP	PRO-IGUAL	R12-A13-04
Prefeitura Municipal de Guarulhos	BRA	Metodologias de microcrédito como instrumento de fomento à inclusão sócio-econômica das mulheres	R12-A14-04
Gobierno de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires	ARG	Estrategias para la Transverzalización de la Perspectiva de Género en las Políticas Públicas	R12-A15-04
Municipalidad de Curuzú Cuatía	ARG	Observatorio participativo: de la e-exclusión a la e-inclusión	R13-A10-04
Comune di Segrate	ITA	Telemunicipio saludable	R13-A11-04
Gobernación Provincial de Mendoza	ARG	Modelo de Planificación estratégica de Gobierno Electrónico	R13-A12-04
Ilustre Municipalidad de Riobamba	ECU	Diagnóstico de la incidencia de la Migración e Inmigración desde realidades diferentes con efectos en la Seguridad ciudadana	R14-A10-04
TYPE "B" JOINT PROJECTS			
Selected coordinator	Country	Project title	Project No
Ayuntamiento de Rubí	ESP	Energías renovables y redes de desarrollo local	R4-B6-04
Città di Torino	ITA	Boulevard. Recorridos de Salud	R5-B4-04
Regione Toscana	ITA	Intervenciones de planificación y recualificación urbana: el enfoque multidisciplinar integrado	R7-B1-04

AGENDA

Annual Meetings 2005: Provisional Dates

NETWORK No – COORDINATOR	PLACE	DATE
Nº 6 Ayuntamiento de Málaga	Málaga – Spain	14-15 October 2005
Nº 9 Prefeitura de Porto Alegre	Córdoba – Spain	8-10 June 2005
Nº 10 Prefeitura de São Paulo	São Paulo – Brazil	23-25 February 2005
Nº 12 Diputación de Barcelona	Montevideo – Uruguay	13-15 April 2005
Nº 13 Freie Hansestadt Bremen	Bremen – Deutschland	November 2005
Nº 14 Municipalidad de Valparaíso	Valparaíso – Chile	September 2005

AYUNTAMIENTO DE MÁLAGA

The Ayuntamiento de Málaga lends continuity to Network 6 URB-AL by hosting the 4th annual seminar

In November 2003 the Community subsidies for coordination of the thematic Network 6 URB-AL "Urban Environment" came to an end. The Ayuntamiento de Málaga decided to build on the experience gained and the excellent technical and financial results obtained by pursuing some of the activities of the network further.

On the 18th and 19th of June 2004, the Ayuntamiento de Málaga held a new annual seminar for Network 6. Attendance at this fourth encounter was higher than ever before even though it involved no joint project workshop.

The Ayuntamiento de Málaga bore the costs of all of the seminar's activities and the special arrangements made for the members of the network.

More than 120 people from 48 European and Latin American cities attended the seminar, which was devoted to 3 main topics:

- Monitoring of the approved joint projects;
- A monograph on Local Agenda 21;
- The various programmes which, together with URB-AL, are being developed by the European Commission in cooperation with Latin America and the access to such programmes.

The opening plenary session was attended by Marta García Nart, of the Ministry of Finance, who explained the inescapable connection between urban planning and the environmental characteristics of our towns and cities. In her speech she referred to the importance of Local Agenda 21 as an instrument of commitment and action for the creation of a more sustainable urban environment.

This was followed by presentations by the coordinating cities on the progress and results of all of the approved Network 6 joint projects. The European Commission had approved 10 type-A joint projects involving 75 cities and 2 type-B projects involving 17 European and Latin American cities (see www.urbalmalaga.com).

Another innovation in the work programme for the 2004 seminar was the inclusion of a paper on the various programmes for cooperation between the European Commission and Latin America (EUROsociAL, AL-Invest, Alfa, Alban, etc.). The exhibition was organised by Marc Rimez, representative of the European Commission Cooperation Office, EuropeAid.

This meeting of Network 6 was held alongside the annual meeting of the coordinators of the various URB-AL networks. At this meeting presentations were made concerning the various activities of each of the networks and the management problems they encounter accompanied by infor-

mation on what experience had shown to be good practice.

The Ayuntamiento de Málaga is committed to the sustainable development of the urban environment through work in the four main branches of Network 6; the configuration of the city and the urban region, social cohesion, natural resources and city governance.

The work already begun on setting up the urban environment observatory (OMAU) with the establishment of a system of indicators shared by all of the members of the network, and the re-launch of the Málaga Agenda 21 form the basis for continuing the collaboration and cooperation between the cities of the two continents begun with Network 6 URB-AL. ■

Network 6. Fourth Annual Seminar: Pedro Marín, Coordinator of Network 6; Francisco de la Torre, Mayor of Málaga and Marc Rimez, Project manager of URB-AL Programme.



MUNICIPALIDAD DE VALPARAÍSO

Citizens' safety in towns

On the 9th and 10th of September last, Network 14 held its first annual meeting in Valparaíso (Chile) at which members exchanged know-how on citizen safety as a way of arriving at a joint approach to the problems experienced in their communities.

According to the Network's experts, "Latin America is one of the most violent regions of the world. Rapid and disorderly urbanization, social conflict, poverty, institutional weakness, the poor quality of education, high unemployment, drug trafficking, a lack of trust in the police and family breakdown lead to a situation where crime and violence prevail".

In Europe on the other hand certain categories of crime are increasing at a alarming rate against a background of social conflict creating a situation of violence, solitude and individualism.

Against this background, the purpose of the first annual meeting of Network 14 was to discuss the latest proposals concerning citizen safety.

After welcome addresses by **Gustavo Paulsen** (Coordinator of Network 14), **Marc**

Rimez (Project Manager of the URB-AL programme), **Vittorio Tonutti** (Coordinator of URB-AL programme) and **Wolfgang Pasa** (Head of European Commission delegation in Chile), the ceremony focused initially on the speech by **Jorge Correa Sutil** (Under Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior of Chile). He made a frank analysis of Chilean policy on citizen safety. The latest publication by Network 14, entitled "Citizen Safety at local level: experience and challenges", was presented during a panel discussion concerning the experiences of cities in the field of citizen safety. Speeches were made by **Pedro Chabat** (Chairman of the Association of Chilean municipalities), **Hugo Acero** (Coordinator of the Colombian national police force's regional and municipal safety programme), who enthusiastically explained the results of his work in combatting homicide and other crime in

Bogotá, and **Lucía Dammert**, expert of Network 14.

All of the panel members stressed the relevance of this topic and the importance of local management regarding the policies on citizen safety, as clearly demonstrated by Gustavo Paulsen when he said; "Is there any authority, institution or organisation which should not feel obliged to play a role in the prevention of violence and crime? Furthermore, if we really believe that local institutional structures are an irreplaceable source of the means to strive for safety, can we ignore the responsibility which this places on those who manage these structures? Certainly not. More and more cities and regions of Latin America are showing that we cannot go on waiting and have begun to act. Without relenting in their demands for the greater resources they need or for autonomy and decentralisation, which is nothing more than the necessary expansion of democracy, many local authorities can demonstrate genuine cases where both crime figures and, as a result, perceptions of insecurity have fallen in their areas, something which, sadly, none of the national governments of the region can boast".

In two intense days of workshops more than a hundred representatives from various European and Latin American cities strove to produce proposals for joint projects on 4 topics: "citizen safety and urban configuration", "citizen safety and inter-sectoral policies", "instruments and scope for action on citizen safety", and "citizen safety and civil society".

As a result of the extensive work and productive days of the workshops, and involving equipment such as methodologic monitors, impellers and supports, 16 profiles for joint projects were created, which were then presented at the closing ceremony. ■



Network 14. Valparaíso. Closing session of the first annual meeting: Marc Rimez, Project manager of URB-AL Programme; Gustavo Paulsen, coordinator of network 14 and Vittorio Tonutti, Coordinator of URB-AL Programme.

COORDINATED BY THE FREIE HANSESTADT BREMEN

Towns and the information society

Approximately 150 people attended the first annual meeting of Network 13, "Towns and the information society", held in Miraflores (Peru) from the 3rd to the 5th of November, 2004. The conference was jointly organised by the coordinating city Bremen and the host city Miraflores.

The plenary sessions were attended by various figures connected with the topic. Tadao Takahashi, general coordinator for the Information Society Programme, SOCINFO, (Campinas, Brazil) stressed that, despite the differences between Latin American and European cities, cooperation in the field of the information society was needed because in the key areas, the challenges were practically the same: decisions regarding the appropriate combination of technologies, critical application and community involvement.

The head of the CISCO working party on a practical strategy for governance for Latin America, Juan Carlos Castilla Rubio, stressed the link between the use of information technology and productivity and how the use of these technologies can lead to a higher output in the public sector in Latin America.

The meeting was addressed by representatives of the organising cities – the Senator

for Education and Science of Bremen, Willi Lemke, and the Mayor of Miraflores, Fernando Andrade. Willi Lemke underlined the importance of these personal meetings for the development of genuine links between the cities.

The European Commission was represented by the Head of the EC delegation to Peru, Mendel Goldstein, the Brussels coordinator of the URB-AL programme, Vittorio Tonutti, and a project manager of the programme, Miguel Romero. Mendel Goldstein emphasised the decisive part played by the cities in improving both the socio-economic conditions and the quality of life of their populations. He also underlined the contribution made by the latest technological advances, especially in the field of communication and information. Miguel Romero explained in detail the philosophy of the URB-AL programme and the procedures to

be followed for drafting and presenting a proposal for a joint project.

The workshops focused on the four main topics of the network which are described in the basic document (see www.bremen.de/urb-al):

- Government.
- People.
- Enterprises.
- Urban environment.

Eleven ideas emerged for possible future proposals for joint projects.

Regarding the basic document, Luis Lozano called for it to be updated so it can be presented in its modified form at the forthcoming annual meeting of the Network to be held in November 2005. ■



Network 13. First annual Meeting: Mendel Goldstein, Head of the Delegation of the EC in Peru; Pierre Santini, Mayor of Issy-les-moulineaux; Fernando Andrade, Mayor of Miraflores; Brigitte Kleinen, coordinator of Network 13; Vittorio Tonutti, Coordinator of URB-AL Programme and Miguel Romero, Project manager of URB-AL Programme.

Intendencia de Montevideo: Ciudad Vieja Renueva

A few months after the completion of the project “Urban social policy: a proposal for integration in run-down central areas”, the Intendencia de Montevideo, which has coordinated this experiment, set out some of the practical results: renovated facades, pedestrian areas and local people aspiring to a better quality of life.

The project has various objectives:

- The creation of a methodology for action in dilapidated historical areas;
- The socio-economic development of Ciudad Vieja;
- The development of local people’s skills and their potential to enter the labour market;
- The rehabilitation of the local urban area to encourage a more popular, democratic use;
- The dissemination of the methods and results of implementation.



Montevideo. Work facade.

Emphasis is placed on the diversity of the participants involved: state institutions such as the Ministry of Labour, the Academy for

Advanced Construction (National Public Education Administration), the Faculty of Architecture (University of the Republic), the Network Acercándonos (children, young people and family organisations), employers, municipal authorities (members of the project: Santo André, Rosario, Turin and Bilbao), decentralised municipal bodies of Montevideo and local people’s mutual assistance organisations.

Four work programmes have been deployed in the Ciudad Vieja (old town) district of Montevideo:

- **Urban renewal.**
- **Training and support for workers.**
- **Local participation and cooperation.**
- **Horizontal cooperation between local authorities and with other municipal bodies.**

The results of these coordinated measures are as follows:

- 72 participants at the **Urban Renewal School** (48 graduates, 24 currently in training, with a projected total in mid-May of 30 unemployed people between 30 and 55 years of age, 26 young people between 18 and 29 years of age and 16 single mothers skilled in the trades of bricklaying, carpentry and metalwork);
- 35 construction workers (13 from the builders’ union and 22 graduates from the **Urban Renewal School**) contracted by Ciudad Vieja Renueva;
- 4 small loans granted by the Employment Fund to businesses setting up and investing in the area and providing at least one new job for each inhabitant of Ciudad Vieja;
- 14 young people in temporary jobs;
- 20 young people trained in catering through “Ciudad Vieja emplea” courses – (National Employment Agency), some 50% of whom have been given temporary or permanent jobs in businesses in the area.



Montevideo. Renovated facade.

Other participants are 54 small-scale entrepreneurs on business management courses and 40 recipients of advice from desk officers, and more than 35 owners of properties already renovated or undergoing renovation.

Lastly under the Inter-Municipal Horizontal Cooperation Programme technical and political teams from Santo Andre, Rosario, Bilbao and Turin, especially those specialising in international relations and urban renewal, are involved in exchange and methodological discussions concerning the measures in Montevideo, for example a Seminar – Inaugural workshop of August 2003, identification of good practices and a video conference in 2004. Furthermore, the Conference on Ideas in 2003 enabled a group of young people from Turin to take part in a social cultural action project in the San Salvario area of that city.

The months to come will see an intensification of links between institutions with a view to increasing the sustainability of *Ciudad Vieja Renueva*. ■

Ayuntamiento de Madrid: “Intercity Local Development Training School”

This school, which was the result of an initiative to design a project based on the know-how and experience jointly gained with several members of Network 4 (the Cabildo Metropolitano de Caracas – Venezuela, the Municipalidad de San Salvador de Jujuy – Argentina, the Gobierno del Estado de Jalisco – Mexico, the Comune di Roma – Italy and Bidasoa Activa – Spain) came to an end in December 2004.

First phase: training attended by participants

The activities of the school consisted in providing high level training relating to all stages of local development. The curriculum for the courses included a large practical component which made it possible not only to put the experience gained to good use in the local decision-making bodies concerned, but also to promote the continuous acquisition of know-how between municipalities and the other protagonists of sustainable development. There were four attended training modules:

- 1) Promotion of business and employment.
- 2) Concern for the citizen and social welfare.
- 3) Local sustainable development.
- 4) Tourism as a factor of local development.

Second phase: interactive training course

After completion of the attended training courses, the school launched its interactive training course in December 2004. In this way distance training was provided for 300 technical workers from local bodies and organisations involved in the development processes in Latin America and the European Union.

The syllabus was adapted to digital format and divided into two learning units including a self-evaluation form and exercises, as well as a bibliographic base and a good practice guide. Tutors provided on-line support

throughout the process. The course lasts one year, after which each student has to present a final project.

Testimonies

“The interesting feature of the module is the fact that both students and instructors were selected as participants. A fundamental part of the courses was the exchange of members’ experience and above all the conferring and the debate between all of the participants. The participants from Rome shared their own acquired know-how with their colleagues and expanded on the topics dealt with in the module. All showed interest in reproducing the experience and much discussion was provoked concerning ways of adjusting and improving everyday work in the light of the discussions at the school...”. Alessandra Testoni, Officer for Decentralised Cooperation, II UO – XV Comune di Roma.

“For Venezuela, to talk about cooperation in a highly disruptive everyday environment is to think about the antithesis of this situation. Fortunately for some, the Intercity Training School project became a space where Venezuelan civil servants of various hues declared a truce and gained an opportunity to listen to each other and to realise that joint work had to begin at home. In the same way, we in Argentina, Mexico and Venezuela are beginning to scrutinise ourselves, whilst emphasising our autonomous aspects and sharing our similarities, and highlighting the importance of working as equals. The school has enabled us to highlight the importance of a rela-

tionship based on parity between South America and Europe for the promotion of economic, political and social development. It brought us to share our daily lives in view of a common reality: the need for urban areas of growth and development based on the upgrading of human resources...’.

Ana Sofia Afanador, Coordinator for Special Projects, Committee for Education, Culture, Science and Technology, Cabildo Metropolitano de Caracas, Venezuela.

An example of an extension of the school’s activities

The Agencia por Jujuy Activa, set up at the end of 2003, is the result of an initiative by a group of technical specialists with the support of the political sector who were given the opportunity to study and analyse the experiences of Europe and Latin America on the basis of the URB-AL programme and the Intercity Training School.

The Agencia took the form of a public-private structure for the search for local and regional development opportunities. ■



Madrid. Intercity Local Development Training School.

Provincia di Vicenza: “International Training Centre in the Upgrading and Conservation of Historic Urban Contexts”

The concluding seminar of this project was held in the Provincia di Vicenza from the 25th to the 27th of November 2004. Work focused on the activities carried out over the previous two years and initiatives which would be taken in order to successfully continue work already begun.

In addition to the Provincia di Vicenza (Italy) acting as coordinator, the project involved: the Ayuntamiento de Málaga (Spain), the Municipalidad de Cuenca (Ecuador), the Estado de Hidalgo (Mexico), the Alcaldía de Villa de Leiva (Colombia), the Alcaldía Municipal de Nueva San Salvador (El Salvador), the Prefeitura Municipal de Belém (Brazil), the Municipalidad de Santiago (Chile) and the Gobierno Regional de Tarapacá (Chile). The company ENVAR (Belgium), which provided technical assistance, was an external participant.

While the general aim of the project was to increase local authorities' capacity for action as regards the upgrading and conservation of historic urban contexts, the specific aim was to set up an “International Training Centre” capable of organising two types of courses;

- one intended for civil servants with administrative responsibility for heritage conservation within the participant municipal areas;
- another, based on the concept of integrated urban restoration and directed at young graduates with a direct connection to the local member authorities of the project.

The technical and scientific parts of the courses were supervised by Jean-Pierre Errath and Maria Luisa Cerrillos – scientific advisers

of the training centre – and enjoyed the collaboration of highly-respected lecturers from various parts of the world, coordinated by Professor Vincenzo Zucchi of the Milan Polytechnic.

The course intended for young graduates was attended by 19 young people, with a total of 600 practical and an equal amount of theoretical lectures. The course for civil servants was attended by 18 participants over a period of two months. At the end of the two months, the young graduates and the civil servants worked together on the probation course.

The project was given a website – <http://urb-al.provincia.vicenza.it> – in three languages (Italian, Spanish and Portuguese) and it contained all of the information relating to the initiative. Furthermore, provision was made for the issue of a three-



Course in the International Centre for Training.

monthly newsletter, the publication of a manual explaining the project and the annual production of the Cuadernos del Centro (Centre Diaries) carrying articles on innovative concepts in the sector of urban management and conservation.

The work done was presented in two international events: the Fifth National Urban Planning Review in Venice (10-20 November) and the Ninth International Seminar UNESCO-University and Heritage Forum in the city of Buenos Aires (11-15 October).

Over the two-year period of the work, three meetings were held with institutional representatives of the local authorities participating in the project. These meetings were useful for the organisational profile but even more so from the point of view of the teaching content of the courses, enabling all the members to ensure the success of this undertaking.

As a final note it should be stated that the experience was very positive. The participants carried out the planned activities conscientiously with concern to ensure the future of the international training centre. They therefore decided to assign permanent legal status in the form of a foundation to the centre and to endow it with a specific statute. This is most certainly to ensure the continuation of the activities of this structure. ■

Málaga-Valparaíso Consortium chosen by the European Commission

The main objectives of this pioneering experiment are to compile and disseminate the successes of URB-AL, provide methodological support and disseminate best practice.

More than 1000 European and Latin American cities have taken part in the URB-AL programme since it was set up seven years ago. The 13 networks on which the programme hinges have drawn up a large quantity of informative material on subjects connected with local policy. These documents, which are the product of work by experts, coordination groups, annual meetings and discussion forums, have resulted in the development of 137 joint projects to date relating to every aspect of urban problems. This makes URB-AL one of the most active and successful of the programmes launched by the Commission.

The URB-AL programme had not provided for the setting up of an office to conserve this

valuable source of urban know-how. This need was expressed by the independent experts who performed the assessment of the first phase of the programme and ratified it in the Valparaíso Declaration. Consequently, in light of this necessity, the coordinators of the URB-AL networks decided at their meeting in Málaga to make a proposal to the European Commission for the creation of a documentation centre to store all of the projects approved by the European Commission over the years.

The documentation centre will hold all of the information generated by the various URB-AL networks in one location in order to conserve it and disseminate the work carried out since

the beginning of the programme. Thought will be given to the creation of a manual of good practice which will include the joint projects of greatest interest from the point of view of the utility and exemplariness of their proposals and measures.

The CDPU will also provide methodological support for the cities which continue to develop activities (joint projects types A and B) for which training courses will be organised for interested towns and cities.

In order to realise this ambitious project, the cities of Málaga and Valparaíso have set up a consortium which will rely on support from the University of Málaga (www.uma.es), the Corporación de Justicia y Democracia de Santiago and the Centro Iberoamericano de Desarrollo Estratégico Urbano (CIDEU) (www.cideu.org), an association which encompasses 60 Spanish and Iberoamerican cities with considerable experience of strategic territorial planning.

The central headquarters of the URB-AL programme documentation centre will be located in the city of Málaga within the premises of the Málaga Urban Environment Observatory (www.omau-malaga.com). Furthermore, the CDPU will have a Latin American office in Valparaíso (Chile) dependent on the Málaga Coordination Centre. The intention therefore is to maintain direct contact with the Latin American cities forming part of the various networks.

The CDPU project entailed the creation of two libraries (one in Málaga and the other in Valparaíso) to hold all of the URB-AL material in electronic form. These data will also be available on the Internet in order to facilitate access by any user. ■



The Mayor of Málaga, Francisco de la Torre and the Head of Programmes of the Ayuntamiento de Málaga, Pedro Marín inaugurate the works of Building OMAU, where the Center of Documentation of the URB-AL Programme will be located.

Compilation and diffusion of information on decentralised cooperation

The Observatory of European Union/Latin America Local Decentralised Cooperation is an initiative of the consortium formed by the Diputación de Barcelona, the Intendencia de Montevideo, the Fundacion CIDOB, the Universidad de la República Oriental de Uruguay and the Fundación para la Paz y la Democracia de Costa Rica.

The project emerges from the conclusions of the Conference on Past and Future Decentralised Cooperation between the EU and Latin America in the field of urban policies held in Valparaíso (March 2004), identifying the need for an instrument for compiling, systematising and disseminating the results and impact of the centralised cooperation between both regions.

The Diputación de Barcelona took responsibility for the general coordination of initiatives and, to ensure the proper deployment of the measures, two field offices were set up, one in Barcelona (Europe) and another in Montevideo (South America) as well as a secondary field office in San José de Costa Rica (Central America and Mexico).

The primary mission of the observatory will of course be to **observe what happens and compile information on decentralised cooperation**. This is no easy task since apart from the main programmes for support for decentralised cooperation, initiatives in this field are highly dispersed.

There is therefore a fundamental need to establish a methodology for the compilation and systematisation of data; data relating to those actively involved in decentralised cooperation projects which are being or have been carried out, sources of finances, impact and results of decentralised cooperation, methods of decentralised cooperation, etc.

All of this work of systematising information will serve to place an online resource centre at the disposal of the users of the observatory, offering amongst other things databases (operators, programmes, projects, etc.), statistics, documentary references, publications and articles, a guide to financial resources, a catalogue of best practice, and information on particular systems in Europe and Latin America.

This work will also have to serve as a basis for investigative activities, the aim of which will be to generate know-how relating to local decentralised cooperation.

Specialists are expected to contribute to the production of various publications: a year-book on EU-LA decentralised cooperation, a magazine, a collection of studies and a collection of methodological publications.

The observatory will also grant an annual investigation prize for completed works on decentralised cooperation. The prize will be €3,000 and, in addition, publication in the collection of studies.

One of the priority objectives will be to **promote training in the field of decentralised cooperation** for officials and local representatives. A training plan will be drawn up to include **on-line and attended courses**. The latter will be held to coincide with the **regional workshops** (debate and exchange on local decentralised cooperation), which will promote the observatory alongside the annual meetings of three organisations: Eurocities, Mercocities and CONFEDELCA.

Finally, the Observatory will be a forum **for debate and exchange**. An annual meeting of specialists from both continents will be held. The specialists will be people with a distinguished background in decentralised cooperation from the political, managerial or academic point of view.

In its activities the observatory will therefore try to analyse and capitalise on decisive contributions from the world of European-Latin American decentralised initiatives from the point of view of more dynamic urban development in both regions, better local government structures, citizen participation, the internationalisation of territorial collective organisations and mutual learning between local representative bodies. ■



Cover of the book *Tejiendo Lazos entre Territorios*.

Barcelona Activa: “New technologies as an instrument of consolidation and support for micro enterprises”

Barcelona Activa, which is the local development agency of the Ayuntamiento de Barcelona, along with seven other cities, have devised this project in order to encourage enterprise initiative through a package of multimedia topics and applications to facilitate decision-making by businessmen and employers who have recently set up businesses.

The project is led and coordinated by the Ayuntamiento de Barcelona through Barcelona Activa whose members are the cities of Bilbao (Spain), Roma (Italy), Buenos Aires and La Plata (Argentina), Santiago and El Bosque (Chile) and Montevideo (Uruguay).

The project will draw on its members' extensive previous experience of both international cooperation and the promotion of enterprise initiative and small and micro-enterprises. In practical terms, Barcelona and El Bosque have already collaborated on another project within the framework of URB-AL, which resulted in an open-source multimedia application, the Plan de Empresa On Line, (on-line business plan) which is being used by all of the members and enables them to improve their support services via Internet for entrepreneurs who need to develop their business plan.

This B Project will take the form of a combination of multimedia applications, topics and tools which can be adapted to the interests, specific characteristics and needs of each of the members. In this way each municipality will have an opportunity to amplify its support services for business initiative and the creation and consolidation of new enterprises.

The project will also facilitate the creation and exchange of cultural and technological points of reference between various areas of innovation and enterprise-creation in Latin America and Europe. The ultimate beneficiaries will be entrepreneurs in each of the local contexts, who will be given new ways and means of increasing their business opportunities and improving the competitiveness of their enterprise projects through the new technologies and by drawing on various testimonies and experience. ■



Barcelona Activa

Ayuntamiento de Barcelona: Local Observatories of Participative Democracy

The establishment of nine local observatories of participative democracy has been launched in the cities of La Paz (Bolivia), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Cuenca (Ecuador), El Bosque (Chile), São Paulo and Porto Alegre (Brazil), Barcelona, Donostia-San Sebastian (Spain) and Saint-Denis (France).

This B project is the result of the work carried out on the A project “International Observatory of Participative Democracy” which revealed the great diversity of content of existing participative practices.

At the third International Conference on Participative Democracy (November 2003), a number of important aspects were discussed with the aim of contributing to the development of practices and of encouraging the establishment of new parameters for democratic political action. The conclusions reached indicate the need to:

- create new mechanisms by means of which a better knowledge can be gained of the degree of development of participative democracy in cities;

- work towards the adoption of shared criteria for the definition of the aims of participative processes: citizenship, equality, confidence and effectiveness;
- define shared objective criteria which can be applied in different contexts.

The solution found was the *local observatories of participative democracy* which will make it possible to satisfy these needs and make qualitative progress in the dissemination of the mechanisms of participative democracy.

The objectives are as follows:

- Configuration of the observatories on solid bases of participation and involvement of all of the various agencies (public admin-

istration, civil society and the academic world);

- Agreement on common points of reference for a system of evaluation to be applied in each observatory;
- Completion of the process of analysis and critical deliberation on the processes of participative democracy in each region;
- Consolidation of stable and permanent links between the cities working towards a common objective of greater and better participation by the citizen in local government;
- Achieving the transfer and exchange of know-how generated by the local observatories to other municipalities involved in the processes of participatory democracy. ■

São Paulo: “Local community centres for women striving for equality”

The participants in the A project—local government of São Paulo (Brazil), Montevideo (Uruguay), Rosario (Argentina), Consejo de Vigo (Spain) and Regione Toscana (Italy), and the external member REPEM (Red Popular entre Mujeres en América Latina y Caribe) – which was concerned with the employment and income prospects of women, identified the need to set up collective premises for community action.

The aim of this B project is to develop the exchange of experience in the field of applied public policies between the municipalities involved, resulting in proposals for new public policies. Five local community centres for women will be set up in São Paulo and one in Montevideo, the specific objectives of which will be to:

- Increase the powers of public authorities to implement policies on equality and autonomy for women by involving participants who will lend legitimacy to this policy;
- Develop the skills of local civil servants and groups of women from poor sectors of society in order to develop services focusing on women;
- Create a capacity for community action by guaranteeing respect for women’s economic, social and cultural rights and to improve their skills in the areas of leadership, negotiation and community action;
- Establish a link between local action and the network of existing organisations, NGOs, associations, groups and forums working on related areas.

The centres will be set up in places where women’s living conditions are most precarious and where there is a need for public

services, particularly for women. Each centre is expected to serve between 200 and 400 women every month.

The main purpose of this innovative project is not only to provide services for victims of domestic or sexual violence but also, as a priority, to focus on providing information to citizens with a view to promoting their active involvement in community life and participative democracy. ■



Women of São Paulo meet to discuss the project.

Ayuntamiento de Leganés: “Virtual centre for the prevention and treatment of domestic violence”

The implementation of A project “The phenomenon of domestic violence” revealed the weaknesses of the different systems of social protection in the prevention and treatment of this phenomenon.



Leganés. Participants at the conference.

Although every municipality had sufficient resources for working with the victims, only two had a department working with the aggressors.

In short, primary preventive measures are very rare; the professionals concerned are insufficiently trained with no specialisation at all amongst professionals in the health

field and very limited services for the treatment of perpetrators.

Italy (Comune di Genova), Spain (Ayuntamiento de Huelva and Ayuntamiento de Leganés), Chile (San Felipe), Argentina (Villa María and Fundación del Sur) and Brazil (Prefeitura Municipal de Río Claro and Prefeitura Municipal de Uberlândia) are joining forces in order to make improvements in this area.

The aims of this multi-focus project (informative, preventive, awareness raising and therapeutic) are as follows:

- The establishment of a **virtual centre** for the prevention and treatment of domestic violence which serves as a platform for promoting training measures and direct intervention;
- Raising public awareness of the phenomenon of domestic violence through **basic informative measures** which, while

respecting the particularities of each local situation, will help to develop preventive action at both primary and secondary level;

- Increasing the technical intervention skills of local community workers active in the area of domestic violence through **special on-line training**;
- The designation of a **specialised department for the treatment of perpetrators of violence in the home** and its development as a pilot project;
- Increasing public awareness of the European Union’s involvement in the fight against domestic violence by consistently publicising the **progress, results and outcome of the shared project** (profile-raising).

The intention underlying this comprehensive strategy is to endow the public and the authorities with ways and means of dealing with the problem and assisting those affected by it. ■

Gemeente Utrecht: Increasing cyclists' safety

The "MOVILIZATION" project, coordinated by the city of Utrecht is the continuation of the A project "Integration of the bicycle into the transport system of medium-sized cities in Europe and Latin America".

Transport systems define the quality of life of millions of people in every city in the world. Unfortunately, the negative impacts of urban transport (dangerous levels of atmospheric pollution, congestion, noise, threats to public safety) act as an impediment both to greater economic development and to the well-being of individuals. Furthermore, the number of vehicles in the world continues to increase despite the fact that they consume high quantities of non-renewable energy and contribute to carbon emissions.

These trends underline the need to find appropriate environmentally sustainable solutions for the urban transport dilemma. The experience gained with the A Project can be summed up in two points:

- Studies show that in many cities **the bicycle** can make a major contribution to the development of a sustainable transport system.
- Town-planners and architects are seeking more **tools** and greater knowledge in order to be able to promote greater use of bicycles in towns.

The members of the project recognised that the bicycle has enormous potential in most cities but that this lack of safety prevents its promotion as a viable mode of transport.

By developing tools such as campaign materials, by implementing traffic measures (cheap and simple) and by developing and deploying road safety education material,

the mobilisation project is designed to improve safety for cyclists and therefore the "cycling environment" in the participant cities.

This project is useful for cities with a high percentage of cyclists. However, those cities which are trying to promote the use of the bicycle will also benefit from the results of the project. The activities consist of the development and launch of educational and promotional campaigns combined with the deployment of simple and effective traffic (infrastructural) measures. ■



Utrecht. Information campaign.

Provincia de Treviso: Observatory for Road Safety– OROS



Treviso. Logo of the project.

The purpose of this project, which is based on an A project "Vi.Co.Ro.Sa", is to improve quality of life, mobility and safety in towns.

The OROS project is based on an analysis of three elements:

- The guidelines of the European Commission on Road Safety and in particular the "European Road Safety Action Programme";

- The problems and needs of the areas involved;
- The specific powers and technical skills of each member.

The OROS project comprises various measures covering many topics (children's rights in the road safety field, the management of mobility, the use of land and new technologies) as implemented by the member with the best knowledge of the subject so as to obtain the best results.

The expected results of the project are as follows:

- Pilot measures: an information campaign to improve citizen awareness, information on new technologies for vehicles (safety and environment), road-safety education at school, measures relating to mobility management;
- "The International Charter for the protection of the right of children to

road safety" accompanied by training for children and an analysis of the causes of road accidents and their implications for individuals;

- The establishment of two "Driving Training Tracks" for students;
- A White Paper on land use and infrastructures taking account of the needs of children and young people;
- A "Safe Roads Area" certificate;
- A feasibility study for the "The Urban Reference Centre for Sustainable Ecology and Mobility" in Brazil;
- Two annual courses for members on the eight project topics;
- Local awareness-raising seminars;
- A Virtual Observatory for Road Safety – OROS. ■

PROJECTS

More than 80 projects have been completed within the framework of the 13 networks of phases one and two of the Programme

More than 80 projects involving the exchange of experience have now been completed within phase one. Two projects of phase two, one B project and one of Network 10, are also complete. In the second half of 2004, 12 joint projects were brought to conclusion.

Coordinator	Country	Project number	Project title
Provincia de Vicenza	Italy	B2-P1-02	Centro internazionale di formazione per la valorizzazione a la concersazione di contesti storici urbani
Prefeitura de Belo Horizonte	Brazil	R3-P2-00	Internet: outil de perfectionnement de la démocratie locale
Ayuntamiento de Barcelona	Spain	R3-P8-00	Observatorio internacional de democracia local
Stadt Gent	Belgium	R4-P2-02	Ciudad en acción
Ayuntamiento de Donostia-San Sebastián	Spain	R4-P4-02	La dinamización local del mercado laboral
Diputación Provincial de Málaga	Spain	R4-P8-02	Turestrategia
Ayuntamiento de Sant Boi de Llobregat	Spain	R6-P1-02	Recurso-Residuo-Recurso «R que R»
Gobierno de la ciudad de México D.F	Mexico	R6-P2-02	Modelo rector de capacitación ambiental para tomadores de decisiones locales (MRCA)
Comune di Ariccia	Italy	R6-P3-02	Mejorar el medioambiente urbano: identificación de las acciones a implementar para valorizar los espacios verdes y los centros históricos de las zonas urbanas
Mancomunidad de Municipios del Área Metropolitana de Barcelona	Spain	R7-P8-01	Organización de las areas metropolitanas e instrumentos de intervención
Mairie de Saint-Denis	France	R10-A1-03	Méthodologies et outils pour la mise en place d'observatoires de l'inclusion sociale dans les villes

CONFERENCE

Forging links between territories

The EU-AL local partnership conference coordinated by the Municipalidad de Valparaíso and the Diputación de Barcelona published the results of its work in a book entitled "Forging links between territories. Local decentralised cooperation between the European Union and Latin America". It was published by Victor Godínez, coordinator of the group of experts, and María del Huerto Romero, executive coordinator for the conference.

This book describes the main contributions made by the experts as initially presented to the conference in March 2004. The various sectors and disciplinary backgrounds of the contributors meant that more than a decade of

experience of decentralised cooperation was on hand to cover a wide range of topics relating to the urban environment: citizen participation, the role of local players in development, combatting poverty, international relations between

the parties involved in the various regions, the problems of decentralisation and the resources available in the framework of this form of local cooperation.

The book is available in full on the conference site: <http://www.conference2004.cl>

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The fight against urban poverty

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Citizens' safety in towns

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