

IN THIS ISSUE

As 2005 draws to a close, several networks from the second phase of the URB-AL programme are finalising their activities under the contract they signed with the European Commission. Some have already held their last annual meeting. Yet, for their coordinators this does not mean that URB-AL activities are over. Two networks – Network 6, coordinated by Málaga and Network 8, coordinated by Stuttgart – are currently prolonging their activities thanks to other financial resources. They are a source of inspiration to URB-AL networks in the second phase, which do not want to call a halt to their activities after three years of international exchanges and enriching learning experiences. These networks are keen to exploit the links that they have established between European and Latin American cities over this period and to push ahead with more ideas and more projects, after financing for the URB-AL programme comes to an end.

This issue includes a presentation of the Málaga and Stuttgart strategies, their reasons for continuing to implement part of the networks' activities and their experiences in this new phase.

The continuation of the URB-AL programme is not, however, just a matter of going on with the networks but also the lasting effects made by the projects carried out. These results, which, in the case of Rosario, have received international recognition from the UNDP, are encouraging other cities to participate in URB-AL Type "A" and Type "B" projects. Several of the joint URB-AL projects are also presented by their coordinators in this issue.

RICCARDO GAMBINI
EuropeAid Cooperation Office – Head of Unit B2

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



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EuropeAid
Cooperation office
Latin America Directorate



Aerial view of the central area of the town of São Paulo

JOINT PROJECTS SELECTED

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2005 – 30 APRIL (REFERENCE EUROPEAID/113113/C/G)

Coordination of joint projects

TYPE "A" JOINT PROJECTS			
Selected coordinator	Country	Project title	Project No
Provincia de Génova	IT	Creación de empleo y recuperación ambiental – cooperación entre diferentes agentes locales	R10-A12-05
Comune di Latina	IT	Observatoire international pour les droits et les opportunités des femmes célibataires chefs de famille	R12-A2-05
Municipalidad de Miraflores	PE	Red Internacional de Bibliotecas municipales. Unión de Bibliotecas UB	R13-A3-05
Ayuntamiento de Gijón	ES	Servicios e infraestructuras de apoyo empresarial: Transferencia de metodologías y nuevos desarrollos sobre la base de las Tecnologías de la Información y la Comunicación	R13-A6-05
Consell Comarcal del Maresme	ES	Aplicación innovadora de las TICS en el desarrollo de territorios turísticos emergentes	R13-A8-05
Regione Toscana	IT	Consolidación de los gobiernos locales en seguridad ciudadana: formación y prácticas	R14-A2-05
Ayuntamiento de Santa Cruz de Tenerife	ES	Inseguridad colectiva y autoprotección	R14-A5-05
TYPE "B" JOINT PROJECTS			
Selected coordinator	Country	Project title	Project No
Municipalidad de Valparaíso	CL	Modelo de gestión para barrios históricos en ciudades puerto	R2-B1-05
Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo	UY	Ciudades y ciudadanos/as por la inclusión social	R10-B1-05

AGENDA

Annual Meetings 2006: Provisional Dates

NETWORK No – COORDINATOR	PLACE	DATE
Nº 6 Ayuntamiento de Málaga	Málaga – España	10-11 March 2006
Nº 9 Prefeitura de Porto Alegre	Porto Alegre – Brasil	7-9 March 2006
URB-AL Programme Document Centre	Málaga – España	10-11 March 2006
Observatory of EU-LA Local decentralised cooperation	Montevideo – Uruguay	March 2006

COORDINATED BY THE PREFEITURA DE SÃO PAULO

Fight against urban poverty

The closing conference of Network 10, "Poverty as a violation of human rights: the role of cities in attaining the Millennium Goals and equity", was held in São Paulo from 23 to 25 February, attended by some 200 representatives of 66 local governments from Latin America and 10 cities from Europe, as well as 24 civil society bodies, representing a total of 14 countries.

The opening of Network 10's last annual meeting, **Fight against urban poverty**, was attended by the Prefect de São Paulo, José Serra; the President of the Municipal Commission for Human Rights, José Gregori; the European Commission official in charge of the URB-AL programme, Vittorio Tonutti, and the International Relations Secretary and General Coordinator of Network 10, Helena Maria Gasparian.

During the opening session, there were presentations by Professor Ruth Cardoso, who spoke on "The Millennium Goals – investing in development", the Municipal Secretary for Social Assistance and Development, Antonio Floriano P. Pesaro, and by the Labour Secretary, Gilmar Viana Conceição. Vittorio Tonutti, the EC official in charge of the URB-AL Programme also gave a speech in which he reiterated the objective of this decentralised cooperation programme, namely to foster direct and lasting links between European and Latin American local organisations by disseminating and applying good practice in the context of urban policies. Network 10's coordinators then presented the eight joint Type "A" projects adopted to date.

During the Conference, the members met in thematic groups and jointly drew up 19 proposals for Type "A" Joint Projects, involving cities and organisations from seven countries. At the same time, a Declaration was drafted by the partner cities and approved by the plenary session, showing the interest in continuing the URB-AL Programme in order to take full advantage of the excellent results achieved during its ten years of existence.

During the conference, debates on the proposals covered five thematic areas: human rights and vulnerable groups (e.g.

people living on the streets); the right to the city (the use of public space in central and outlying areas), local development, economic solidarity and financing strategy; rights of the child (how to tackle child labour in cities); and cooperation as an instrument for combating urban poverty.

An assessment survey of the Conference (72 questionnaires completed) showed the extent of participants' satisfaction and interest: 63% said that they learnt a lot from the presentations and 78% endorsed the thematic area approach.

The preliminary results of a second survey on the overall assessment of Network 10's work indicated that all the people questioned felt that relations with the Network were good or excellent. The replies expressed people's satisfaction with the services provided and the help received in formulating projects and with the links with the other members.

Since January 2005, Helena Maria Gasparian has been responsible for the International Relations Secretariat and the general coordination of Network 10. One of her priorities was participation in the URB-AL Programme, both the Coordination of Network 10 and participation in Type "A" and "B" projects under way, and meeting previous commitments, such as the Network's closing conference.

Network 10 took part in the call for proposals in April 2005 with 12 proposals for joint Type "A" projects and one Type "B" proposal, about half of which were discussed or improved in the Network's closing conference.

The coordination has already begun preparing the concluding documents on Network 10's work. The final document will incorporate all the theoretical material produced during the three years of the Network's existence, and also a more in-depth examination of its subject matter, the fight against urban poverty. (www.urbal10.sp.gov.br) ■



Network 10. Closing Conference: Helena Maria Gasparian, Municipal secretary of International relations of São Paulo; Vittorio Tonutti, Coordinator of the URB-AL Programme; José Serra, Mayor of São Paulo; Ruth Cardoso, Representative of the Programme *Comunidade Solidária*; José Gregori, President of the municipal Commission of São Paulo's Human Rights

COORDINATED BY THE DIPUTACIÓ PROVICIAL DE BARCELONA

Network 12 held its Third Annual Seminar

The Third Annual Seminar of Network 12 "Promoting the role of women in local decision-making" was held in Montevideo (Uruguay) from 13 to 15 April. The event was attended by 155 people from local bodies and corporations from 19 Latin American and European Union countries.

The main aim of this meeting, whose slogan was **"Cities for solidarity, cities for living together: Scenarios for cooperative work by women and men"**, was to generate ideas that help to promote cities as spaces for living together, places where people feel confident and safe, for living in dignity, and where differences are accepted and assimilated.

The opening session was attended by the Intendente de Montevideo, Adolfo Pérez Piera, Uruguay's Minister of Housing, Mariano Arana, the Commissioner for International Equality and Citizenship Programmes of the Diputación de Barcelona, Dolors Renau, and the European Commission representative for the URB-AL Programme, Vittorio Tonutti.

During the opening session, the Director of the International Relations Services of the Diputación de Barcelona, Agustín Fernández de Losada Passols, gave a general overview of Network 12 and mapped out its future prospects. At the end of his address, he presented the Observatory for EU-LA local decentralised cooperation,

coordinated by the Diputación de Barcelona.

During the discussions on the presentations and the dialogue in the four workshops, a set of conclusions and priorities were drawn up to define future fields of action.

Cities are spaces for living together and feeling at ease. Building cities means building citizenship, where every individual is recognised by the community as a person in his own right. Cities must protect their inhabitants from any type of aggression and annoyance. For all these reasons, municipal policies must help to build protective societies in which responsibility for the community is not shouldered by women, at the same guaranteeing them physical integrity, participation in political power and enjoyment of public space. Political parity and social parity must move forward at the same pace in cities.

Municipal policies must include women with special difficulties in access to social facilities (migrant and displaced women), incorporating the

gender dimension in all programmes, laws and policies on immigration and reception, ensuring the protection of human rights in any policy on migration and/or care for displaced women, introducing measures to protect these women in policies, helping to re-integrate women who return to their country, promoting women's organisations and fostering representation and self-help groups within the migrant community, facilitating family reunification and guaranteeing equality without making cultural, ethnic or national homogeneity a prerequisite.

Although the seminar participants acknowledged that incorporating women in work is one of the most significant social and economic advances in recent decades, they noted at the same time that access to employment and working conditions continued to be one of the main areas of discrimination. To combat this discrimination, policies must consider women as **active agents of local development**, guaranteeing their presence in all decision-making, consultation or economic planning forums. **Women and men must share family responsibilities, work and economic decisions**, helping to reduce the personal impact and consequences that women's incorporation in the working world currently entails. A final point discussed was the pressing need to increase women's participation in social dialogue structures: trade unions, employers and the organisations representing them.

The members' active and participative work and the exchange of experiences and different situations were very interesting and fruitful. The discussions and general interaction led to 13 proposals for joint projects being drawn up (available on the Network's web page <http://www.diba.es/urbal12/>) for presentation in the forthcoming calls for proposals. ■



Network 12. Participants in the Third Annual Seminar

COORDINATED BY THE PREFEITURA MUNICIPAL DE PORTO ALEGRE

Local finance and participative budget

The Prefeitura de Porto Alegre organised the second annual seminar of Network 9 “Local Finance and Participative Budget” from 8 to 10 June in the city of Cordoba (Spain). The meeting was attended by more than 150 participants from 30 European cities representing five countries and from 23 Latin American cities from six countries, providing a good balance between European and Latin American participation and a wide range of countries and municipalities.

Network 9’s new coordinators attended the seminar: Clóvis Magalhães (General Coordinator), Cezar Busatto (Technical Coordinator) and João Portella (Executive and Financial Coordinator), together with authorities from the host city, the Teniente de Alcalde, Inés Fontiveros and the Alcaldesa de Córdoba, Rosa Aguilar.

On the first day of the Seminar, the European Commission representatives outlined Network 9’s objectives, and the main aspects and rules governing the URB-AL programme. The Coordinators of Network 9 then spoke about budget planning and the experience of participative budget and local government. They explained how the participative budget worked in Porto Alegre, and described the general balance of Network 9’s projections. They outlined aspects of the new management, the example of the concepts of local solidarity government, in which the Technical Coordinator, Cezar Busatto, highlighted the need to extend and deepen popular participation and also stressed the importance of cooperation programmes, such as the URB-AL programme, for developing international cooperation between European and Latin American cities.

In his presentation, Clóvis Magalhães addressed the need to go beyond systems for popular participation in preparing the national budget and the need for a new linkage with the social sectors intended to foster territoriality and transversality in public management. He also put forward management proposals for the new administration of the city of Porto Alegre.

The representative of Unifem/UN in Brazil, Ana Falú, then gave a presentation on the gender perspective in participative budgets, showing different aspects of the gender issue in popular participation, indicating the wide disparity and the difficulties experienced by women in participating actively in decision-making processes. The representative of the NGO “Ciudad”, Sérgio Baierle, also gave a

speech on “civil society in participative budgets”. This showed the importance of popular participation in the debate on the redistribution of municipal resources for the development of democracy. The coordinators briefly described the projects approved in Network 9 and they outlined their objectives and the activities carried out or due to be carried out.

The last speech was given by Network 9’s Adviser, Yves Cabannes, on “The challenge of participative budgets at the present time”, focusing on four dimensions: (i) participative and financial; (ii) budgetary and tax; (iii) regulatory and legal-judicial; (iv) territorial. He highlighted the importance of considering the political dimension as a fifth crosscutting issue and also included the debate on Government and participative democracy, by asking questions such as: What are the links between participative budgets and legislative power and town councillors? Do participative budgets strengthen the role of the Prefect vis-à-vis the town councillors or not? Do participative budgets legitimise the Government, from the point of view of people or

a pre-established programme? Are participative budgets the product of social capital? Does it strengthen them? How can political take-over and bureaucratisation of the process be avoided? These were just some of the points raised that helped members of Network 9 to gain a better understanding of participative budgets, by clarifying or settling certain topics of discussion, and also contributing to formulating joint projects.

On the other two days, the representatives of the cities divided into four workshops: (i) Participative Dimension, (ii) Territorial Dimension, (iii) Regulatory Dimension and (iv) Financial Dimension, which corresponded to the thematic areas defined during the Network’s launch seminar and incorporated in Network 9’s basic document. Following the workshops, the cities drew up 14 proposals for joint projects.

In the closing session, the coordinators confirmed the willingness to go further in Network 9’s work, calling on all the members to take part in the last seminar, scheduled for 2006, in the city of Porto Alegre. ■



Network 9. Inés Fontiveros, Assistant of the Mayor of Córdoba; Cezar Busatto, municipal Secretary of Porto Alegre; Andrés Ocaña, First assistant of the Mayor of Córdoba; Miguel Romero, Manager of the URB-AL Programme in the European Commission; Clóvis Magalhães, municipal Secretary of Porto Alegre; João Portella, municipal Secretary of Porto Alegre

COORDINATED BY THE AYUNTAMIENTO DE MÁLAGA AND THE LANDESHAUPTSTADT STUTTGART

Continuity of the URB-AL networks: The strategies of Málaga and Stuttgart

At the end of 2003, Community funding for the coordination of URB-AL thematic Networks 6 “Urban Environment” and 8 “Control of Urban Mobility” came to an end. Two years later, Málaga and Stuttgart City Councils are carrying on part of the activities of the networks and are developing strategies to create lasting prospects for transnational cooperation between municipalities.

Two years after the end of the official coordination period of the two thematic networks, the members continue implementing a range of joint projects and are taking advantage of the last two calls for proposals to apply for Type “B” projects. As the project coordinators and the member cities have mentioned several times, coordination of the thematic network provides a vital framework for maintaining an exchange between different projects and for disseminating the results beyond specific small sub-networks. The City Councils of Málaga and Stuttgart see their thematic networks with over 180 cities from Latin America and Europe as a very important investment in terms of their international relations. The influence of the transnational networks of cities is growing in all areas and these networks can gradually become platforms to convey the specific interests of local Governments towards other political bodies at national, supranational or even global level.

Málaga’s Network 6 (Urban Environment) held three official meetings between 2001 and 2003, focusing its work on four areas covering: 1) land-use planning and the configuration of the city, 2) natural resources, 3) social cohesion and 4) city governance, which have enabled 12 Type “A” and “B” joint projects to be implemented to date. A fourth meeting of the Network was held in 2004, exclusively financed by the Ayuntamiento de Málaga, devoted to following up the joint projects under way and various types of cooperation programmes between Europe and America, which complement URB-AL.

The fifth and last meeting of Network 6 is planned for the beginning of 2006. It will

link up the URB-AL projects implemented by Málaga, the Urban Environment Observatory (OMAU, www.omau-malaga.es) and the URB-AL programme’s Documentation Centre (CDPU, www.centrourbal.com). The OMAU is a Type “B” project combining the two-year training of municipal technical staff from the member cities with the construction of a bioclimatic building that will house the Observatory and that is designed to give continuity to cooperation initiatives on the various aspects of Urban Environment. To this end, a system of periodic indicators will be set up for the member cities wishing to participate. The OMAU building will also be the headquarters of the CDPU, where all the paper and on-line versions of documents that have been formalised in all the URB-AL networks will be kept.

Despite a very strict austerity policy imposed by the Municipal Council on the local authorities of **Stuttgart (Control of Urban Mobility)**, the Landeshauptstadt has found a way of subcontracting a member of the former coordination team in order to maintain the basic functions of the network: updating Network 8’s web page (www.stuttgart.de/europa/urb-al), moderating a discussion forum for all members of the network, regular publication of the Newsletter and R8-NEWS which serve to disseminate practical examples and the results of projects, as well as maintain ongoing communication with the network members in general.

However, in the long term, new horizons must be sought for the work of a thematic network in order to ensure access to other sources of funding and to extend cooper-

ation among municipal bodies. Steps have therefore been taken to establish cooperation with similar initiatives and programmes, for example, with the Sustainable Urban Transport Programme (SUTP of the GTZ), with the Clean Air Initiative in Latin American Cities (IAL-CAL of the World Bank), or with Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI).

As urban transport systems not only depend on the municipalities but also on private transport firms whose investments influence transport technologies and the sector’s long-term sustainability, Network 8 is considering involving the private transport sector as the second pillar in the continuity strategy. The hope is to gain access to new funding sources for meetings and future projects since most local governments, especially of small and medium-sized Latin American cities, do not have the necessary resources to maintain transnational cooperation activities on their own.

The third important aspect of Stuttgart’s strategy is to appoint sub-coordinating cities for the Latin American region. The support of the Porto Alegre Prefeitura in coordinating the Brazil subregion, where recently in the context of a meeting of the Type “B” project “MOVIMAN”, a regional meeting of Network 8 and the Municipio de Querétaro (Mexico) was recently held for the Spanish-speaking members of Latin America, contributes to the long-term decentralisation, consolidation and stabilisation of the coordination of URB-AL Network 8 “Control of Urban Mobility”.



@LIS, Alliance for the Information Society

@LIS is a strategic cooperation programme between Europe and Latin America designed to promote economic development and citizen participation in the globalised Information Society.

With a total budget of EUR 77.5 million, 82% of which is cofinanced by the European Commission, the aim of @LIS is to extend the benefits of the Information Society to all citizens of Latin America and to reduce the digital divide by support for dialogue and cooperation between all users of the IS in both regions.

@LIS supports the construction of dialogues and networks between stakeholders in Latin America and Europe, such as the implementation of 19 pilot projects on local e-governance, e-education and cultural diversity, e-public health and e-inclusion.

The programme is already beginning to deliver its first results by helping to reduce the difference between those who do and those who do not have access to Information and Communication Technologies.

It is important to underline that all the actions provided for under the @LIS Programme 2002-2006 have already been awarded and are in the process of implementation. No further calls for proposals are planned.

For more information on the @LIS Programme:
<http://europa.eu.int/alis>
<http://www.alis-online.org>
 e-mail: EuropeAid-ALIS@cec.eu.int

Some of the local e-governance projects include:

SILAE – Local Initiative Services in Ecuadorian Amazonia

This is a project designed to improve governance in Ecuadorian Amazonia where there are 6 provincial Governments, 41 municipal Governments and 187 Parochial Councils.

SILAE sets out to provide basic services where there are none, starting with electricity services. Once the project had been publicised, assemblies were held in the various communities, which appointed their Community Electrification Committees (CEC). These Committees were responsible for drafting a description of their communities and sending it to the SILAE, thereby expressing their interest in participating.

On the basis of these expressions of interest, Community Rural Electrification Enterprises (ECER) were set up. Complementary activities were also organised in the form of a painting and story-telling competition entitled "What will our community be like when we get electricity" targeted at primary and secondary school children with the aim of encouraging their creativity and obtaining proposals for using electricity in a social and productive way.

More information is available on the web site: www.silae.org

eGOIA – Electronic Government Innovation and Access

The main aim of eGOIA is the demonstration of future-oriented public administration services to a broad public in Latin America. The vision of the eGOIA project is therefore the provision of a single virtual space supporting the interaction of citizens and the public administration in a simple, future-oriented and cost-effective way. Software is being developed to facilitate Internet access to integrated public services of local Government (municipalities), regional Government and federal Government (in the case of Brazil).

The pilot projects are already up and running in the State of São Paulo in Brazil (one of the participating members), while Peru will take

on the demonstration of phase II: Electronic Government services on information about municipal taxes and payment service.

More information on the web site: www.egoia.info

EMPLENET – Bringing the local administration closer to the citizen with the aim of reducing unemployment through the new information and communication technologies

The aim of the EMPLENET project is to reduce unemployment in Latin America, one of the most worrying problems in the region. The local authorities, as the representative bodies closest to the people, are fully aware of society's needs and demands. Accordingly, these local authorities implement employment support strategies based on the new information and communication technologies in order to reach a large number of citizens.

The employment support strategy will be based on launching an advanced service for the unemployed consisting of: vocational e-training service, access to an employment service (vocational guidance, employment exchange, updated information...) and a service to help set up businesses.

The participating members include the Municipalidad de Trelew (Argentina), the Prefeitura de São Luis (Brazil), the Instituto Brasileiro de Administração Municipal (IBAM), the Alcaldía de León (Nicaragua), and the Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo (Uruguay).

More information on the web site: www.emplenet.org

Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo: "Cities and Citizens for Social Inclusion"

This project, approved in July, is coordinated by the Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo and the partners are the Mairie de Saint-Denis (France), the Ayuntamiento de Barcelona (Spain), the Prefeitura de Porto Alegre (Brazil), the Prefeitura de São Paulo (Brazil), the Gobierno de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires (Argentina) and the Fondo Andaluz de Municipios para la Solidaridad Internacional (FAMSI).

This project stems from the Type "A" project, *Methodologies and tools for creating Social Inclusion Observatories in cities*, coordinated by the Mairie de Saint-Denis in 2003 and 2004 under Network 10, and with the same partners. The design of this "B" project therefore draws on the lessons learnt in the "A" phase. These pointed to the need for a close link with academic circles, the importance of studying and promoting initiatives with direct impact on a situation, in addition to the component of generating knowledge and the need for ongoing training for stakeholders in the cities.

The cities involved in the Type "A" project identified the following needs:

- technical support for installing observatories capable of managing geo-referenced social information systems,
- access to areas of joint discussion on establishing indicators that express the multicausality of local exclusion,
- comparative studies of aspects emerging from processes of social exclusion, such as phenomena of violence and urban gangs and residential segregation,
- foster horizontal links between academic circles and generating knowledge in each city,
- encourage the recognition of civil society organisations that implement successful actions connected with social exclusion.

In this new phase, the project therefore aims to help local governments and society as a whole to address more effectively phenomena related to problems of exclusion/inclusion in both the European Union and Latin America. Fuller and more up-to-date information will also be generated on this phenomenon and citizens' access

to this information will be improved so as to strengthen processes and models of citizen participation and decentralisation in its various forms.

Three linked and complementary network-based areas of activity will be developed:

1. Increase knowledge and understanding of the current phenomena of social inclusion and exclusion with the aim of a more efficient and adequate definition and implementation of local public policies to help to overcome problems associated with exclusion.
2. Start up of Social Inclusion Observatories as appropriate instruments for collating, processing and disseminating relevant and up-to-date information available to the various actors directly involved in this area of intervention.

3. Support for civil society in its efforts to improve the living conditions of excluded sectors of the population. This involves providing opportunities to consolidate and develop initiatives already under way that are felt to be sustainable and innovative in the area of social inclusion.

This raises high expectations among the partner local Governments and other actors involved, committing human and material resources in return, in order to ensure a successful outcome of the project during the two years when the planned activities are carried out. In particular, the Municipio de Montevideo has reaffirmed its commitment to work in the framework of the URB-AL programme and this has generated very positive results, at local and international level, thanks to active participation in the programme right from the very beginning. ■



Web Page of A project

Municipalidad de Valparaíso: “Management model for historic quarters in port cities”

The project “Management model for historic quarters in port cities” was selected in July. It was jointly presented by the cities of Valparaíso (Chile), the Intendencia de Montevideo (Uruguay), the Gobierno de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires (Argentina), the Comuna de Génova (Italy), and the Ayuntamiento de Bilbao (Spain).

The aim of this project is to generate management models for the historic quarters of port cities and to help to implement this model by means of a pilot plan in the port area of the historic centre of the city of Valparaíso. The project involves analysing the urban infrastructure and the communities living in the historic quarters of the project’s partner cities (one neighbourhood per partner), training and pooling of experience among partners and the publication and dissemination of the results attained.

Part of the public spaces and infrastructure of the historic quarter of Valparaíso, and especially the “Mercado Puerto”, will be rehabilitated under the project. The Mercado Puerto building was built in the 1920s and has a reinforced concrete structure. It is now in an advanced state of disrepair. It is the most important building in the area, consisting of three storeys, balcony, underground area and a large central interior space, therefore making a considerable urban impact in the neighbourhood and seen as something of a landmark by its inhabitants.

The rehabilitation work consists of repairs and improvements, converting parts of the building to different uses, making use of hitherto unused parts of the building, all from a contemporary perspective. It is therefore an architectural intervention

that represents and physically embodies the Barrio Puerto Genera management model.

In this context, the approach proposed is **participative urban regeneration** in the historic centre of Port City of Valparaíso, recently classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, following the Neighbourhood Management methodology. This consists of adopting a multidisciplinary and scientific approach to analyse the community identified as showing signs of exclusion and marginality, exploiting the capacities and opportunities offered by its urban role at this particular juncture for the city, in order to reverse the trend of stigmatisation. As the premise is sustainable economic and social development at neighbourhood level, the idea is to generate a management model that brings together the social actors to work on the integrated development of their population and on strengthening their local identity and their urban role. This is done by means of a Neighbourhood Management aimed at developing strategic lines that foster the consolidation of strong communities, make sustainable citizen participation feasible and consolidate an efficient management model for historic quarters. This good practice could then be replicated in the historic quarters of the project’s partner Port Cities. ■



Valparaíso. «Mercado Puerto»

Regione Toscana: "Planning and urban regeneration measures: the multidisciplinary and integrated approach"

The project, the fruit of the successful experience with the Type "A" project carried out under Network 7, involves the same partners: the Regione Toscana (Italy), the Communauté du Pays d'Aix (France), Asociación Co.Opera (Italy), and the cities of León (Nicaragua), La Habana (Cuba), Capilla del Monte (Argentina) and Viña del Mar (Chile). They will implement four pilot projects in the four Latin American partner cities.

A set of successful methodologies, principles and tools were identified under the Type "A" project. The partners considered these indispensable for devising and implementing urban projects at municipal level. These results were formalised and published in the "Municipal Planning Statute", which will be the reference instrument available to the partners for devising urban planning and regeneration measures in the four partner cities of the Type "B" project.

The aim of the project is to improve the partner organisations' urban planning capacities and urban interventions at municipal level by means of urban plans implemented under the planning programme of the Latin American partner cities. In Viña del Mar, a *Plan to modify an area of urban growth* will be implemented. In León, there will be a *Plan to regenerate a run-down area* close to the historic centre of the city; in Capilla del Monte, a *Plan to regenerate a system of green public areas* in the city centre will be carried out; and in Havana, as part of the Urban Regeneration Plan for the Municipio de Centro Habana, *Instruments to foster participative management in order to enhance local resources and economic development* will be established.

All the urban instruments that are devised must be discussed, approved and adopted by the Local Authorities, hence there will also be participative workshops with local citizens to disseminate project ideas and involve the population in the drafting of the plans.



Cover of the book: *Estatuto de la planificación municipal*

The methodology is based on the active and immediate participation of the actors,

therefore reinforcing the participants' sense of "ownership", involving staff at all levels: strategic, management and executive, and including an exchange of technical methodologies between partners to ensure smooth implementation. In order to disseminate good practice through the pilot projects and make use of every partner's skills, a working method and a communication system will have to be identified and implemented to ensure a constant two-way flow of information between technical experts, and the discussion and the collective monitoring of each activity.

To this end, besides meeting in three seminars in the course of the project and exchanging technical consultation missions according to planning requirements, the partner organisations will share information via the web page set up during the Type "A" project.

In the final months, the results of the four pilot projects will be disseminated via a travelling exhibition, which will go to all the project's partner cities in order to share the work carried out during the two years of the project with the local population. ■

Ayuntamiento de Rubí: “Renewable energies and local development networks”

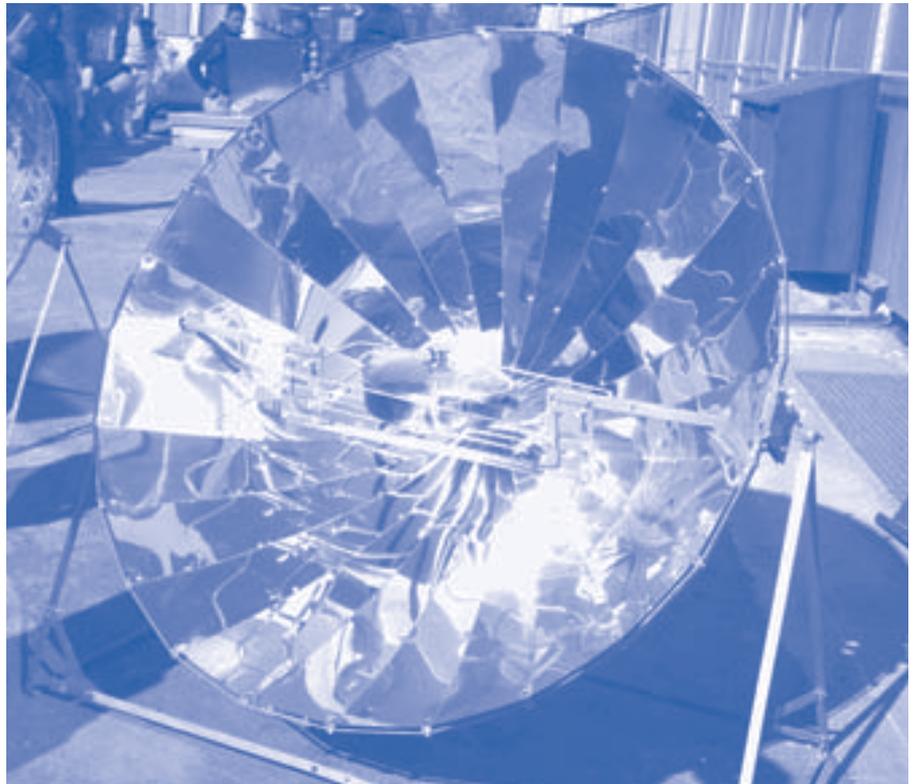
The project “Renewable energies and local development networks” is the logical continuation of the Type “A” project “RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ENERGY+D”, carried out during the period 2002 - 2004 under Network 4: “The town as a promoter of economic development”.

In this new stage, besides the Ayuntamiento de Rubí as lead partner of the project, the following local authorities will also take part: the Ayuntamiento de Valladolid (Spain), la Diputación de Huelva (Spain), the Alcaldía Municipal de León (Nicaragua), the Alcaldía Municipal de Estelí (Nicaragua), the Municipalidad de Venado Tuerto (Argentina), the Municipalidad de Cuenca (Ecuador), the Alcaldía del Municipio de Sucre (Venezuela), the Diputación de Málaga (Spain), the Gobierno Municipal de San Javier (Bolivia), the Fundación Celestina Pérez de Almada (Paraguay), the Municipality of Egaleo (Greece) and the Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña (Spain).

The main purpose of the project is to move towards an energy sustainable economic development by using renewable energies (especially solar energy), reducing local energy dependence and taking advantage of employment-generating possibilities derived from the use of these new technologies.

To this end, six programmes have been devised:

1. Local energy planning: this is one of the priority areas of intervention. The programme includes two types of activities, municipal energy planning and the drafting of solar energy regulations.
2. Capacity building: this will involve setting up various training activities directed at the vocational and education sectors (university and advanced secondary level).



Solar kitchen

3. Public information: this will involve devising a set of material for dissemination that will be made available to the municipalities. A programme of talks and training and information activities will also be organised based on this material.
 4. Promoting employment – Support for entrepreneurs: the idea is to provide an advisory service for initiatives carried out in the energy context.
 5. Solar energy in urban areas: this programme includes two types of activities, the plan to include teaching about photovoltaic solar energy in municipal schools and buildings and the plan to include teaching about solar cookers in school canteens.
 6. Assistance for rural communities: this involves the trial introduction of solar cookers in rural and urban areas that use large amounts of firewood and a pilot project on rural electrification using photovoltaic energy.
- In addition to these six areas of activity, there is a seventh – the actual setting up of the Network of E+D Centres (Energy and Development) and their continued implementation. ■

Villa María del Triunfo: "Extreme Poverty and Hunger: Participative responses from Local Governments"

From 1 to 4 June 2005, in the context of Network 10 "The fight against urban poverty", the Municipalidad de Villa María del Triunfo de Lima (Peru), held the launch seminar of the project that it coordinates and which demonstrates the importance of networking and disseminating experiences of combating extreme poverty and hunger in Latin American and European cities, raising the awareness of local, national and international players.

In this workshop seminar, in addition to the Municipalidad de Villa María del Triunfo, there were representatives of the local governments of Maranguape (Brazil), Neiva (Colombia), Las Margaritas (Mexico), Saint-Gilles (Belgium), and also the Centro Internacional de Gestión Urbana (CIGU) as an external partner.

The project seeks to build the capacities of local governments in formulating and implementing participative strategies to develop and/or improve local strategies to combat

extreme poverty and hunger, in conjunction with social movements and grassroots community organisations, with the following specific aims:

- Strengthen the capacities of local governments to identify and characterise population groups in situations of extreme poverty and hunger.
- Document and analyse the responses to tackling extreme poverty and hunger.
- Strengthen the capacities of local governments to make far-reaching changes to the current responses to extreme poverty and hunger.
- Promote associations and solidarity cooperation between local government and social movements and organisations.

During the seminar, it emerged that a consequence of the situation of extreme poverty experienced by a large proportion of the Latin American population is migration. This migration is often illegal and, once over a series of obstacles, generates benefits and problems for the reception cities.

Saint-Gilles pointed out that some places in Europe also contain pockets of poverty, in



Villa María del Triunfo: Cielo Gonzalez Villa, Mayor of Neiva; Carlos Bruce Montes de Oca, Minister for Housing, Construction and Cleansing of Peru; Washington Armando Ipenza Pacheco, Mayor of Villa María del Triunfo; Mendel Goldstein, Head of the Delegation of the EC in Peru; Mario Rios Espinoza, Vice Minister of social Development

many cases made up of Latin American migrants and explained its community's interest in addressing this problem in terms of the Latin American situation and seeking effective solutions for achieving a better standard of living.

In this sense, the URB-AL programme plays a central role in supporting the efforts of the Municipalities and Communities in empowering their citizens, promoting gender equality, including sectors of poverty and extreme poverty and influencing the quality of local public policies to fight urban poverty. ■

Prefeitura de Jacareí: "Equipping local authorities to fight poverty"

The idea of the project is to improve understanding of the phenomenon of poverty; to optimise existing efforts to produce poverty indicators; to develop tools so that cities combat poverty.

The partners of this project, Campo Grande, Jacareí, Diadema, Santa Maria y Goiania (Brazil); Girona (Spain); Vila Real de Santo António (Portugal); Ate y Río Negro (Peru) y Buenos Aires (Argentina) recognise that poverty is not just hunger or lack of work and income but also an absence or denial of the rights to citizenship and equality. They agree that the concepts of poverty and social exclusion, defined by Network 10, cover all the situations that are experienced in their communities and that these in essence are the phenomena that the project sets out to address.

The aim is therefore to create information management systems capable of identifying municipalities (neighbourhoods and districts) that suffer from poverty and exclusion; to keep the local situation constantly under observation; to indicate the population's needs; to select priorities, resources and measures and to monitor the results of action taken by the Government and society.

The idea of creating a "Practical Guide" to equip the local authorities (local administrators, civil servants ...) in their fight against poverty with socio-economic indicators, arises out of the specific need for local administrators to manage resources in the face of demands by the public services in social areas, involving different levels of the Government and civil society.

The information that feeds national socio-economic data systems is collated at local level and is used for indicators of the population's living standards. The aim of the Guide is to make use of this information in the local administration process. This instrument accordingly allows the local authorities to exploit basic information on the population's living standards, throughout the locality. This instrument will help to formulate proposals in favour of local development, using an approach that optimises resources and makes the most of existing know-how and experience. It will also foster the exploitation, creation, comparison and analysis of indicators and other instruments for evaluating programmes and services from the viewpoint of local conditions. ■

Municipalidad de Puerto Montt: “Entrepreneurship network: cities promoting an entrepreneurial culture”

The local governments of Puerto Montt (Chile), Curuzú Cuatiá (Argentina), Aserrí (Costa Rica), Lima (Peru), San Javier (Bolivia), Concepción (Paraguay), Terrassa y Getafe (Spain) and Vila Real de Santo Antonio (Portugal) decided to promote entrepreneurial dynamism more effectively, to foster and involve local SMEs in the use of ICT and on that basis create more new and prosperous businesses that are keen to take advantage of the opening-up of the market and embark on creative and innovative initiatives of larger-scale commercial exploitation.

The project “**Entrepreneurship network: cities promoting an entrepreneurial culture**” basically seeks to create an organisation of Latin American and European local governments to promote and develop the entrepreneurial culture by applying local poli-

cies for greater economic dynamism and entrepreneurial spirit and capacity. These would allow equal opportunities for young and women entrepreneurs from local sectors when facing up to the information society. It is hoped to achieve this objective by means of coordinated work with local SMEs and the use of NICT, developing activities such as diagnoses, international seminar-workshops to exchange experiences, designing a catalogue of management good practice and pitfalls, a virtual classroom for exchanging information and experiences, and implementation of pilot schemes and so on.

The situation of the partner local authorities will improve as a result of the process, which implies implementation of the project itself, attainment of its objectives and results and the post-project relations that are generated and maintained over time.

Promoting an entrepreneurial culture via local governments and in close conjunction with SMEs that see NICT as their source of competitiveness will be of benefit to every local authority, with the development and application of creativity and innovation as funda-

mental personal attitudes for confronting the new local and global economy. This attitude and entrepreneurial culture contributes to job creation and growth, to market competitiveness, and it takes advantage of the personal potential of each player and collaborates with the general interests of society as a whole. Basically, the objectives and priorities of URB-AL and Network 13 will help the local authorities to strengthen their capacities to boost local economies and spread the entrepreneurial spirit, a need that is felt in all the countries of Latin America and Europe, especially in small and medium-sized cities that face more barriers to encouraging business initiative.

Lastly, this project will help the authorities and their direct and indirect beneficiaries to identify the key factors for establishing a climate conducive to the creation of more and better local entrepreneurial initiatives with an NICT component and from a shared perspective: individuals (entrepreneurs) – businesses (SME) – society (local governments/civil society), with particular emphasis on women and young entrepreneurs. ■

Quito: “Constructing inclusive cities”

The project is based on the finding that gender inequalities are produced and reproduced in cities and affect women more seriously and that the growing interaction between women’s organisations and local governments is creating opportunities to address such situations and strengthen women’s exercise of citizenship.

The project “*Constructing inclusive cities – Promoting gender equality in local administration*” has been implemented since June 2004 under the auspices of URB-AL’s Network 12 and coordinated by the Municipio del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito (Ecuador) and with the active participation of five other cities: Gijón (Spain), Saint Denis (France), Montevideo (Uruguay), Santa Tecla (El Salvador) and Escazú (Costa Rica).

The methodology developed by the project involves elected municipal authorities, prefer-

ably female mayors and town councillors, technical municipal staff with decision-making powers in local public administration and women’s organisations that have established a two-way relationship of collaboration and commitment with their respective municipalities. In other words, the project approach is inclusive and involves a wide range of actors with the aim of strengthening interaction between players committed to building gender equality at local level.

Besides recognising and analysing gender inequalities in our cities and systematising municipal actions to promote equality, various face-to-face and remote exchange activities have taken place. These have enabled the project to structure and organise a network of partners that work with the common aim of obtaining greater opportunities for women and the full exercise of their rights.

Many lessons have been learnt from the experience of each partner city and other European



Quito. Participants in the conference within the framework of the project

and Latin American cities, which are essentially being used to produce a document on “Guidelines for incorporating the gender equality issue in local administration”. It is hoped that this will provide a useful tool for the many – and more and more new – local actors interested in constructing inclusive cities. The project’s partner cities have also expressed interest in continuing with the process under way and extending its impact. They are therefore working on a proposal for a Type “B” project. ■

PROJECTS

Over 85 joint projects have concluded their activities under the 13 networks of the first and second phases of the Programme

Over 85 projects for exchanging experiences have concluded their activities under the networks of the two phases, including three Type "B" projects.

In the first half of 2005, five joint projects concluded their activities.

Coordinator	Country	Project number	Project Title
Consell Comarcal de l'Alt Empordá	España	B1-P1-02	Incorporación de buenas prácticas en las políticas de drogodependencias: guía para la elaboración de planes municipales, escuela de formación e implementación de proyectos
Diputación Provincial de Granada	España	R4-P1-02	ALDEAL: Aula Local de Desarrollo Europa – América Latina
Ayuntamiento de Santa Cruz de Tenerife	España	R4-P3-02	Plan de Formación y Reciclaje de Técnicos de Desarrollo Local al Servicio del Mundo Empresarial
Ayuntamiento de Lleida	España	R7-P7-02	Instrumentos de redistribución de la renta Urbana
Verband Region Stuttgart	Deutschland	R8-P3-02	Training for bus drivers using new technology for safe, economic and environmentally friendly driving

PNUD

Municipalidad de Rosario: UN Award for Governance and Development

The Head of the European Commission Delegation in Argentina, Angelos Pangratis, said that Rosario was a model that should be followed in public policies.

During the Feria de la Gobernabilidad, organised by the Municipalidad de Rosario and the UNDP at the end of March 2005, Miguel Lifschitz, Intendente de Rosario, received the UNDP governance award from Juan Manuel Salazar, Regional Director of the UNDP Governance project. He emphasised that Rosario stood out among 257 experiences of 16 countries in the region. It had combined results of human development in health and education with conditions of governance that allowed the

city to make progress based on deeper local democracy.

The Municipalidad de Rosario is one of the lead players in the URB-AL programme. It was the coordinator of Network 7 "Management and control of urbanisation" and it is currently coordinating the Type "B" project "Rosario SUMA" and the Type "A" project "Participative strategy with a gender perspective of social and professional integration for women".

The URB-AL programme's coordination and management team adds its congratulations on this international award, which is recognition of the successes achieved by the Municipalidad de Rosario's consistent implementation of active policies of internal decentralisation and regional and international cooperation.

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