

IN THIS ISSUE

In March 2004, the **Conference on local partnership between the European Union and Latin America**: "Review and outlook for decentralised cooperation between the European Union and Latin America in the area of urban policies", was held in Valparaíso, Chile, coordinated by the **Municipalidad de Valparaíso** in conjunction with the **Diputación de Barcelona**.

The results, set out in the "**Valparaíso Declaration**" and in the basic document, were presented by key figures among the organisers during the **3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean/European Union** held in Guadalajara on 28 and 29 May 2004. These documents will be published in a special issue of URB-AL/INFO, in addition to the excerpts in this issue.

The main conclusions of this Conference included the importance of decentralised cooperation's contribution to local government action to combat poverty and promote social cohesion and institutional capacity building. The participants also underscored their interest in continuing the URB-AL Programme, whose results so far have proved highly positive.

This issue also reports on the annual meetings of the networks during the first half of the year and presents the six type-B projects selected by the European Commission in December 2003.

RICCARDO GAMBINI
 EuropeAid Cooperation Office – Head of Unit E2

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



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 EuropeAid
 Cooperation office
 Latin America Directorate



Valparaíso. Conference participants.

JOINT PROJECTS SELECTED

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2004 – 30 APRIL 2004 (REFERENCE EUROPEAID/113113/C/G)

Coordination of joint projects

TYPE "A" JOINT PROJECTS			
Selected Coordinator	Country	Project Title	Project No
Comune di Nardi	IT	PA.G.U.S – AL2	R6-A1-04
Municipio de Cuenca	ECU	Vinculación entre presupuesto participativo y las asociaciones público-privado con la economía social solidaria	R9-A1-04
Prefeitura de Diadema	BRA	La participación voluntaria en la planificación, ejecución y control social del presupuesto participativo	R9-A2-04
Ayuntamiento de Madrid	ES	Guía de buenas prácticas en la gestión financiera local	R9-A3-04
Ayuntamiento de Córdoba	ES	Participando en la gobernabilidad local: impacto de los presupuestos participativos en la administración pública local	R9-A4-04
Comune di Venecia	IT	El presupuesto participativo como instrumento de lucha contra la exclusión social y territorial	R9-A5-04
Comune di Roma	IT	PRACTICAR: laboratorio de prácticas para el fortalecimiento de las políticas públicas locales de lucha contra la nueva pobreza	R10-A3-04
Ayuntamiento de Málaga	ES	Análisis de indicadores sociales desde una perspectiva territorial	R10-A4-04
Ayuntamiento de Lloret del Mar	ES	Estrategias integradas para reducir la exclusión social	R10-A5-04
Prefeitura de Guarulhos	BRA	Potencialização do uso de sistemas de informação georreferenciados nos projetos de combate a pobreza de jovens da periferia urbana	R10-A9-04
Municipalidad de Villa María del Triunfo	PER	Pobreza extrema y hambre: respuestas participativas desde los gobiernos locales	R10-A10-04
Intendencia Municipal de Rosario	ARG	Estrategias participativas con perspectiva de género de inserción socio-laboral para mujeres	R12-A1-04
Mancomunidad de Tajosalar	ES	Procesos de empoderamiento y participación ciudadana en las mujeres	R12-A2-04
Ayuntamiento de St. Boi de Llobregat	ES	Formación y capacitación para mujeres	R12-A3-04
Intendencia de Tacuarembó	URU	Las nuevas tecnologías como apoyo a la emancipación social (TICES)	R13-A2-04
Municipalidad de Puerto Montt	CHI	Entrepreneurship network: ciudades en fomento de la cultura emprendedora	R13-A5-04
Ayuntamiento de San Sebastián - Donostia	ES	Aproximar las TIC a los ciudadanos mediante el aprendizaje permanente	R13-A7-04
Municipalidad de Calama	CHI	Elaboración y aplicación de una estrategia de intervención para abordar la delincuencia juvenil desde una mirada multicausal	R14-A2-04
Municipalidad del Maule	CHI	Disminución de la percepción de inseguridad de los habitantes	R14-A3-04
Provincia di Padova	IT	The Impact of Urban Plan on the Prevention of Crime	R14-A5-04
Prefeitura de Guarulhos	BRA	El protagonismo del gobierno local como articulador en la integración de políticas participativas de seguridad ciudadana	R14-A6-04
TYPE "B" JOINT PROJECTS			
Selected Coordinator	Country	Project Title	Project No
Ayuntamiento de Barcelona	ES	Observatorios locales de la democracia participativa	R3-B1-04
Ayuntamiento de Barcelona	ES	Las nuevas tecnologías como herramienta de consolidación y apoyo a las microempresas	R4-B1-04
Ayuntamiento de Leganés	ES	Centro virtual para la prevención y tratamiento de la violencia intrafamiliar	R5-B1-04
Prefeitura de São Paulo	BRA	Centros locais de cidadania das mulheres como defensores da igualdade	R5-B2-04
Gemeente Utrecht	NL	MOVILIZATION: keeping cities accessible by promoting bicycle use	R8-B1-04
Provincia di Treviso	IT	O.R.o.S – Observatory for Road Safety	R8-B2-04

AGENDA

Annual meetings 2004-2005: Provisional dates

NETWORK No - COORDINATOR	PLACE	DATE
No 9 Prefeitura de Porto Alegre	Córdoba - Spain	March 2005
No 10 Prefeitura de São Paulo	São Paulo - Brazil	17-19 February 2005
No 12 Diputación de Barcelona	Montevideo - Uruguay	April 2005
No 13 Freie Hansestadt Bremen	Miraflores (Lima) – Peru	3-4 November 2004
No 14 Municipalidad de Valparaíso	Valparaíso - Chile	9-10 September 2004

COORDINATED BY THE DIPUTACIÓN DE BARCELONA

Promoting the role of women in local decision-making bodies

138 representatives of Latin American and European cities and local authorities, all of them members of Network No 12 "Promoting the role of women in local decision-making bodies", met in Barcelona from 21 to 23 April for the first annual meeting of this Network.

The theme of this first annual meeting of the network was "**Towards women's full citizenship**". Well-known experts and feminists such as Amelia Valcárcel, Carmen Martínez Ten and Helle Degn, addressed the plenary session.

The participants centred their work on the following four workshops or thematic priorities:

- Strategies to encourage women's participation in decision-making and leadership roles.
- Planning of gender equality policies at local level.
- New design of cities from a woman's perspective.
- Political training for women and promoting gender issues in the media.

Priorities for action were established on the basis of the discussions in the workshops.

The **participation of all women** in all areas of society and public life needs to be stepped up. It is especially important to promote this sort of approach for young women, based on set of practical measures: public information campaigns, legislation, rules and measures to apply parity democracy. Citizen

participation must be one of the key elements of local gender policies.

The planning of gender equality policies at local level should be based on a participatory diagnostic that involves men and women and reflects the point of view of different social groups. As far as possible these policies must be cross-cutting and have the necessary resources for their implementation.

The new design of cities from a woman's perspective must hinge on identifying the positive aspects of the city for women, which help to raise their quality of life and support their citizen participation. Women themselves must be the principal source of this diagnostic. Urban safety, mobility and transport, type of housing and location of public services are key issues in terms of women's quality of life in cities. Hence they should take part in decision-making on these issues and in urban planning in general.

Political training for women is vital for encouraging their involvement in leadership and local power. Women must be trained as leaders, they must identify their areas of leadership and acknowledge their strengths and also the obstacles in their way of their leadership.

The training must prepare women for political life and use the best and most effective means available. It must therefore include learning about the human and political rights of women as well as including aspects such as self-assertiveness, communication and negotiating skills and the exercise of political leadership.

The seminar resulted in **13 proposals for joint projects** to present to the European Commission.

All the participants considered the seminar to be a very positive experience and the work and conclusions of the seminar will be included in Forum 2004 as part of the Women's Forum scheduled for June. ■



Network 12. Opening session of the annual meeting

COORDINATED BY THE PREFEITURA DE PORTO ALEGRE

Local finance and participative budget

The Prefeitura de Porto Alegre organised the launch seminar of Network 9 "Local Finance and Participative Budgets" on 26, 27 and 28 February 2004. The importance of Porto Alegre's experience in the design, implementation and development of participative budgets cannot be underestimated. It is worth highlighting the interest expressed by everyone - Europeans and Latin Americans alike - in this new instrument for democratising local finance and city life, which combines civic participation with efficient management of funding.

The opening session was attended by Brazil's Minister for Cities, Olivio Dutra, the Prefeito de Porto Alegre, João Verle, the Intendente de Montevideo and President of the Mercociudades Network, Mariano Arana, the Prefeita de Alvorada (Brazil) and representative of the Frente Nacional de Prefeitos, Stela Farias, the representative of the European Commission, Marc Rimez and the general coordinator of Network 9, Eduardo Mancuso.

During the discussions, the key role played by the municipalities in a country's development was underscored. Stela Farias mentioned the growing interest in the subject of participative management and the powerful changes that it can bring about, even against an extremely difficult local backdrop. Mario Arana underlined the need to link local and regional aspects with the international scene. He said that citizen participation was a way of consolidating and enhancing democratic institutions, combating marginalisation and social exclusion and seeking solidarity and social justice.

Marc Rimez spoke of the stronger part played by cities in the last decade in the field of international cooperation and their decisive role in improving socioeconomic conditions and people's quality of life. He also gave a brief history of the URB-AL programme and its objectives.

Olivio Dutra described the integrated urban policies developed by the Ministry of Cities in the quest for a democratic process that is constantly evolving and seeking the direct intervention of citizens in urban policies. He referred to President Lula's wish that this horizontal relationship of exchanges between town halls should be strengthened, that community participation should produce different levels of democratic management of the public arena and consolidate the relationship between representative and participative democracy. According to this approach, each person is not just an observer but an actor, a protagonist of the changes at local level.

Closing the opening session, Prefeito João Verle mentioned the role of Porto Alegre in the construction of participative budgets and the fact that Porto Alegre makes no claims to having a ready-made solution or formula for participation by the people but rather serves as a benchmark for other experiments. As a result of these policies, Porto Alegre attracted the attention of international financial institutions such as the IDB or the World Bank, which advocates its practices because they can be used to combat waste and corruption, as the people themselves are responsible for the supervision of expenditure.

In the afternoon, Sérgio Baierle and Yves Cabannes, authors of the network's basic document, set out their main conclusions based on Porto Alegre's experience and the study carried out in 25 Latin American and European cities. Their presentation was followed by a lively debate with the audience.

Some 400 people took part in the activities open to the public. The workshops were reserved for the 190 representatives of external members and partners from 73 Latin American and 17 European cities, representing 12 countries in these two continents. 36 observers also took part, including the representative of the European Commission's Delegation in Brazil, Ms Maria Cristina Araujo.

The participants opted for workshops to develop proposals for joint projects. These were based on the four main themes: (i) Participative budgets: forms of participation, decision-making powers and social control; (ii) The political role of participative budgets: relations with legislative bodies and debate on institutionalisation; (iii) Municipal finances, control of public resources and local finance; (iv) Linkage between participative budgets and planning. The workshops came up with 27 ideas for proposals, which were presented to the plenary session on the last day of the event.

The members of Network 9, coordinated by the proposers, are analysing and refining the different ideas for proposals. These are available on the Network's web page. Network 9's coordination decided on 30 March and 30 September 2004 as dates for submitting the proposals, which will be sent to the European Commission by 30 April or 31 October 2004.

The next annual seminar for Network 9 is scheduled for March 2005 in Córdoba, Spain. ■



Porto Alegre. Opening session of the launch seminar

<http://www.portoalegre.rs.gov.br/URBAL/>

The basic document: a compilation and systemization of participative budget experiments

Participative budgets are gaining increasing importance as a driving force in local finance in various experiments carried out in Latin America and Europe. The basic document presented during the launch seminar examines the structures and new possibilities of developing this instrument for citizen participation in public management. Yves Cabannes and Sérgio Baierle were the experts from the Network who analysed 25 cities that are already using participative budgets.

Sérgio Baierle (from the Cidade NGO in Brazil) began by observing that participative budget experiments are not developed from a project model but rather take place within specific contexts. In the analysis of participative budget experiments, key factors include the institutional development of each country, region or city, political processes, forms of election, party structure – in short, the structure of each country in terms of the distribution of public resources. According to Baierle, the traditional organisation and structure of cities plays an important role in participative budgets, mainly as regards the way the population is organised, the functioning of social movements and the representative structure of these movements. Another key aspect is the organisation of political parties: these have to be sufficiently well-established to channel the proposals that come from society. Baierle highlighted the variety of participative budgets in the study – in Brazil alone there are already 160 participative budget initiatives. The expert singled out some key questions that arise in the implementation and setting up of participative budgets, such as: what is the scope of the policy? What is the role of social actors? How can active policies of devolving power to the people be implemented? What comes after participation? Participative budget is a process which, in Porto Alegre, derives from a long history of popular organisation. As basic objectives are achieved, other priorities come to the fore. For example, in the past year, priority had been given to education in Porto Alegre. Baierle rounded off his presentation by saying that the approach of participative budget is integration with planning.

Yves Cabannes, a United Nations Senior adviser, emphasised the wide variety of models of participative budget, which is a constantly evolving process. The assessment made in the basic document is a reflection of this variety, for example, the size of cities, ranging from small to mega cities. According to Cabannes, there are three milestones in the participative budget process: when it first began in 1989 in cities such as Porto Alegre, Montevideo and Santo André; followed by a second phase from 1997, which he called “Brazilian expansion” when over 100 municipalities began the process, and the current phase of expansion and diversification since 2000. Despite this range of experiences, there is still the question of how to differentiate between participative budgets according to different parameters: participative, financial and budgetary, legislative and territorial. Within these parameters, the expert works with 10 variables such as the form of democracy, who holds decision-making powers, what is the decision-making body, the instruments of participation. It emerged

from the analysis of municipal finances that the degree of financial autonomy is limited and that transfers from central governments are a decisive factor for participative budgets. According to Cabannes, it is not possible to consider participative budgets without understanding the specific features of each city and without realising the limits of tax collection. Another question examined was the impact of participative budgets on tax collection and the financial autonomy of the municipality. There was found to be less insolvency, a realisation on the part of citizens of the limits of financing and municipal resources, voluntary work for approved projects, cutting of maintenance costs, less vandalism and increase in capital for the public benefit. The participative dimension also includes the question of the level of participation of historically marginalised members of society and the very poorest people. Affirmative action has already been taken to include these people in the participative budget process. Another positive contribution made by participative budgets was transparency, which hinges on the quality of communication so that the community begins to trust the mechanism. Communication involves public meetings, pamphlets and information on the internet. Cabannes concluded by stating that the participative budget process is a different way of experiencing democracy.



Porto Alegre. Meeting of the Participative Budgets Council

COORDINATED BY THE PREFEITURA DE SÃO PAULO

Fight against urban poverty

The conference "Poverty as a violation of human rights", the second annual meeting of Network 10, was held in São Paulo, from 17 to 19 February. 176 representatives of local governments and civil society from Latin America and Europe attended from 17 countries.

The conference was opened by the Mayoress of São Paulo, Ms Marta Suplicy, the Minister for Human Rights, Mr Nilmário Miranda, the EU Ambassador in Brazil, Mr Alberto Navarro, and the municipal secretaries who form part of Network 10's coordination unit.

A Latin American specialist, Prof. Julio Boltvinik, from the Colegio de México, and a European specialist, Prof. Alfredo Bruto da Costa, President of Portugal's Economic and Social Development Council, were invited to speak on the theme of the conference (for more information on the speeches, see <http://portal.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/urbal/conferenciadelancamento/0001>).

Group work

After the opening session, the participants were divided into five thematic groups to exchange experiences, discuss the subject in greater detail and develop ideas for future type-A joint projects.

The thematic groups were:

- Local development, labour, income and micro-credit: building autonomy and the role of emancipation policies. Coordination: Secretary of Development and Labour, Mr Márcio Pochmann.
- Cooperation Agreements on intra/inter-city integrated policies. Coordination: Secretary for International Relations, Mr Kjeld Jakobsen.
- Social Protection networks and Supervision of social risks. Coordination: Secretary for Social Assistance, Ms Aldaiza Sposati.
- Education policies as a strategy for implementing the social protection network.



Network 10. Workshops

Coordination: Secretary for Education, Ms Maria Aparecida Perez.

- Social housing, urbanisation, territorial inclusion and security of land tenure. Coordination: Secretary for Housing, Mr Paulo Teixeira. To view the texts used as a basis for discussion in the groups, go to http://www.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/arquivos/urbal/conferenciadelancamento/material/caderno_portugues.pdf).

At the end of their work, the groups produced 28 proposals for type-A joint projects, 10 of which are being prepared for the April call for proposals for the URB-AL Programme.

Assessment

A questionnaire was also circulated at the conference for the participants to assess the work done. 88% of the participants replied that they learnt a great deal from the presentations, 98% said that the discussions helped them to draw up type-A projects. Other positive aspects mentioned were the organisation of the conference, the premises where it was held and the simultaneous interpretation. ■

<http://www.prefeitura.sp.gov.br>

NETWORKS 9-10

San Salvador charter on urban poverty

We, as representative of the cities of San Salvador, San José, Havana, Guatemala City, Tegucigalpa, Managua, Panama City, Mexico City and Sao Paulo, meeting in the First Regional Workshop for Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean of Network 10 - Fight against urban poverty of the URB-AL programme - held on 28 and 29 February 2004 in San Salvador, capital of El Salvador; hereby declare:

The situation of poverty and exclusion that blights the world, and especially the so-called underdeveloped geographical areas, is the result of building the new world economic order, which in its globalisation is ignoring the need to respect the dignity of human beings and guarantee their basic necessities.

Some 70% of poverty is concentrated in the cities of Latin America and the Caribbean,

which means that they are desperate for services and public policies that generate access and opportunities for the people.

Absolute or relative poverty, and especially social exclusion, is a multidimensional phenomenon that does not hinge solely on income. It is vital to approach it in terms of the failure to meet basic necessities and especially to guarantee the exercise, respect

and fulfilment of each and everyone's human rights. It is essential to combat the devaluation of human beings, the rejection of large swathes of the population, the loss of identity, the breaking of community ties and solidarity within society. We must regain hope and work towards inclusion.

We set great store by the alliance that enabled the holding of this important meeting

In conjunction with Network 9, Network 10 organised a first regional meeting with Mexico, Central America and Cuba, in San Salvador

Some 300 representatives of cities from every country of Central America, Mexico and Cuba took part in the first meeting launched by Network 10 – “Fight against Urban Poverty”, held on 28 and 29 February, in San Salvador (El Salvador), and which was also attended by representatives of Network 9 – “Local Financing and Participative Budgets”, coordinated by Porto Alegre (Brazil).

The purpose of this regional meeting was to boost the participation of Central American cities in the URB-AL Programme, a shortcoming that was noticed at Network 10’s launch seminar. The aim was also to share experiences in the fight against poverty and to pool know-how of international cooperation between local governments. According to Sinoel Batista, executive coordinator of Network 10, the strategy of regional meetings is to encourage new members to join, and enable the participation and exchange of experiences with governments that have budgetary difficulties in participating or little experience of international cooperation. The executive coordinator of Network 9, André Passos, shares this view, and considers that this regional meeting, besides identifying the various opportunities for cooperation under participative budgets, marks a new stage in the URB-AL Programme. Not only does it innovate by systematically

regionalising the networks’ discussions, it also sets the example of joint action networks, in this case Networks 9 and 10.

Financing

As the URB-AL Programme does not provide resources for regional conferences, the solution found for holding it was to create temporary associations with the Alcaldía de San Salvador, the Fundación Friedrich Ebert (FES), and the Unión de Ciudades y Capitales Ibero-Americanas, (UCCI). Support was also provided by the European Union’s office in the region, the World Bank and the UNDP/Latin America and Caribbean.

During the two days of the meeting, discussions focused on the concepts of poverty and social exclusion, ways of tackling poverty, especially using strategies envisaged by participative budgets, in the local context.

Mechanisms were also sought to create temporary associations for various other joint actions by the Networks of the URB-AL Programme, the European Union and other representatives of civil society. The San Salvador Charter was also drawn up – it sets out the guidelines for cooperation between all the participants (see extracts below and the full version at www.urbal10.sp.gov.br).

Forthcoming meetings

The success of the first meeting meant that **an agenda was drawn up to hold similar events** in Mexico City on 19 and 20 August. This would be followed by an event in Sucre, Bolivia – in September – and in other regions of Latin America and Europe, still at the programming phase. According to the executive coordinators, Sinoel Batista y André Passos, the challenge is to involve more Networks in the forthcoming events. ■

between URB-AL Network 10–Fight against urban poverty, the Prefeitura de São Paulo, the Alcaldía Municipal de San Salvador, the Unión de ciudades capitales iberoamericanas (UCCI) and the Fundación Friedrich Ebert (FES), which encourages us to continue and further our efforts to carry out projects and joint actions in the future.

We propose working together and in each of our countries:

- To strengthen democracy, participation and co-management by the people, ensuring gender equality and respect for religious and ethnic groups.

- To encourage decentralisation of the structures of national governments towards local governments.
- To increase transparency in the management and use of public resources.
- To make public policies universally accessible.

As further confirmation of our alliance and the shared approach to the phenomenon we wish to fight, we propose:

- To strengthen the existing networks and associations which pursue joint actions

and projects to fight poverty and to promote social inclusion in our cities.

- To establish a joint agenda that identifies specific areas and actions in the social inclusion strategy.
- To encourage the process of regional integration and cooperation from capital cities and other cities of the region.

We acknowledge and thank the representatives of the cities of Porto Alegre, Quetzaltenango and San Juan for their participation and for sharing their current experiences of implementing local development policies. ■

Coordinated by the Municipalidad de Valparaíso

The Conference on local partnership between the European Union and Latin America: "Balance and perspective for decentralised cooperation between the EU and Latin America in the field of urban policies" took place from 22 to 24 March 2004.

Like any new initiative, decentralised cooperation between local authorities in Latin America and Europe implies a constant learning curve. Consolidating this process means seeking a balance between achievements and limitations and considering future prospects in the light of the experience of cooperation in the past few years and the know-how of these local authorities in the area of local management practices.

To that end, the European Commission selected the consortium made up of the **Municipalidad de Valparaíso and the Diputación de Barcelona** to coordinate the project "Conference on local partnership between the European Union and Latin America: **Balance and perspective for decentralised cooperation between the EU and Latin America in the field of urban policies**".

The conference was attended by more than 30 key actors – experts and representatives of European and Latin American local and regional authorities with experience in decentralised cooperation, and also repre-

sentatives of the European Commission and the Diputación de Barcelona.

The participants separated into three workshops: (i) Review of decentralised cooperation between local authorities in the European Union and Latin America in the area of urban policies; (ii) Operating methods: Actors, management and financing; (iii) Outlook for decentralised cooperation between the EU and Latin America in the area of urban policies.

The Plenary session was held on the afternoon of 24 March, when a summary of the main ideas put forward during the workshops was presented. These included the importance of decentralised cooperation's contribution to local government action to combat poverty and promote social cohesion. A proposal was made to create a forum for political dialogue between local governments in the European Union and Latin America, and to set up a Decentralised Cooperation Observatory to compile, systemise and disseminate projects. The participants also expressed their interest in the continuation of the URB-AL Programme, whose results to date have been very positive.

Alternative approaches were proposed to optimise the operating methods both in the specific case of URB-AL and also decentralised cooperation.

The results, set out in the Declaration and the basic document, were presented by key figures among the organisers during the

3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean /European Union (Mexico, 28 and 29 May 2004). A special issue of URB-AL/INFO will also be published.

The results have also already been presented to the Congress of the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Associations of Local Governments (FLACMA), which took place in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) from 19 to 21 April. On that occasion, the Congress expressed its backing for the Valparaíso Declaration, giving its support to any initiatives to continue those programmes and projects of decentralised cooperation that contribute to bringing local and regional authorities in both regions closer together. These documents were presented during the launch meeting of the World Organisation of United Cities and Local Governments, held in Paris from 4 to 6 May.

<http://www.conferenciaurbal2004.cl/>



Workshops



Closing ceremony of the Conference

Valparaíso Declaration

On the basis of the work of the Conference, the Municipalidad de Valparaíso and the Diputación de Barcelona drafted and signed the “Valparaíso Declaration”, setting out the main conclusions of the basic document and the work of the Conference. Below are some interesting passages. The complete text can be found on the Conference’s web site, together with the final version of the basic document.

1- Poverty, inequality and social exclusion are the most urgent problems facing Latin America. Tackling these problems with policies to increase social cohesion via the alleviation of poverty, inequity and exclusion is a priority for Latin America. As local authorities are the level of government closest to citizens’ needs and situation, this priority offers an ideal field for developing local public policies.

This is why we acknowledge the decisive role that local and regional governments play in Latin America in combating poverty, inequality and promoting social cohesion and economic development.

2- In the last few years, local authorities have played a significant role in international cooperation. The effects of decentralised cooperation can be seen in the reinforcement of the process of structural change and democratisation, the fostering of increased opportunities for intervention and commitment by the different actors of civil society. Decentralised cooperation has also proved to be an effective mechanism for a two-way learning process for local authorities and a valuable tool for institutional capacity building.
(...)

4- In the past few years there have been many decentralised cooperation pro-

grammes, projects and actions between local authorities in the European Union and Latin America in the field of urban policies, carried out both by local regional bodies and by the European Commission itself and other multilateral bodies. We appreciate their contributions to the urban development of both regions and ***we reaffirm the importance of continuing and expanding this type of initiative. In this context, and given the priorities of Latin America, we recommend that decentralised cooperation should be directed mainly towards strengthening the action of local governments in the field of social cohesion. We propose that this working priority, together with regional integration, should be the cross-cutting issues that underpin operations to support local policies*** (to combat poverty, inequality and exclusion; on migrants, young people, culture, education etc.). Similarly, we stress the importance of giving consideration among decentralised initiatives to the many demands for institutional support from local governments, and the recognition on their part of the importance of mechanisms for exchanging experiences in the field of urban policies.

5- In particular, ***we emphasise our interest in the continuation of the URB-AL Programme***, whose results to date have proved positive in terms of consolidating

direct and lasting links between European and Latin American local organisations; its contribution to the institutional capacity building of municipal authorities and the dissemination and application of good practices in the field of urban policies.

6- All local authorities in the European Union and Latin America recognise the pressing need to set up a mechanism for disseminating and recording decentralised cooperation experiences, their results and impact. The aim is not only to preserve all the achievements of decentralised cooperation, but also to multiply its results and benefits.

Hence ***we recommend the setting-up of an Observatory or Resources Centre*** to compile, systemise and disseminate the results and impact of decentralised cooperation between European and Latin American local authorities. The Observatory could also close two other gaps in decentralised cooperation: the lack of systematic analysis and discussion of programmes and their results; an absence of comparable data and indicators to register the impact of operations.
(...)

11- As European and Latin America local authorities, we reaffirm our historic and cultural ties and the shared values and principles ratified in Madrid in May 2002. On this basis, we consider it essential to establish a forum for ***political dialogue*** between local authorities in the European Union and Latin America to reinforce practical actions undertaken at technical level in the field of decentralised cooperation, and at the same time to promote political consultations in the framework of the bi-regional strategic association agreed in Rio de Janeiro in 1999. ■

TYPE-B PROJECTS

Stadt Karlsruhe: “Waste in Oceanic Islands (RIO-B)” will reduce the impact of waste on tourist islands

This type-B project is the continuation of a type-A project carried out by Stadt Karlsruhe between March 2002 and 2003 on the same subject in the San Andrés Islands (Colombia) and Santa Cruz de Galápagos (Ecuador).

In this new phase, the cities/authorities taking part in phase A of the project (Heidelberg/Germany, Santa Cruz, San Andrés and Coralina/Colombia) have been joined by two new participating municipalities: Arucas (Canary Islands – Spain) and Lima (Peru). This project is scheduled to start on 1 May 2004 and will end 24 months later.

On Santa Cruz de Galápagos, as on many other oceanic islands with large influxes of tourists, waste management is precarious. Supplies of consumer goods arrive from the mainland, leaving large amounts of waste that until now has not been recycled. Currently only 3% of the waste produced on the island of Santa Cruz is recycled, while the rest of the rubbish is incinerated in the middle of a national park, part of the natural heritage.

The aim of this project is to find a site for a new tip, secure the existing tip and then considerably increase the percentage of recycled waste. Part of the new tip will therefore be given over to composting organic material and the waste collection and transport systems will be improved.

Although major headway has been made with the waste management plan on San Andrés, a sustainable recycling system still needs to be applied. In the first stage of the project (type-A), the existing dump was covered with a layer of plastic to prevent the underground water being polluted by liquid seepage. The plan in the second stage is to drain the existing rubbish tip, improve the waste transport and handling system and raise people’s awareness of environmental issues. All of this will ensure and improve the quality of the local bios-



The current tip in the Galápagos Islands

phere by creating jobs in a new municipal undertaking that will be set up to reuse solid waste. ■

Prefeitura de Caxias do Sul: the consolidation of local identity by means of tourism

This type-B project is based on the conclusions drawn by the partners of the type-A project “Roteiros turísticos e patrimônio da imigração italiana”, which ended in January 2003.

In this phase, the project seeks to develop training in tourism in Latin America, especially for young people, in the management of the material and non-material heritage as the main tourist attraction. The Escuela de Agroturismo will run these training programmes in Caxias do Sul. Several technical courses on wine and gastronomy tours will also be organised in Europe. In Bento Gonçalves, a Centro Empresarial en Artes y

Oficios will be in charge of providing the young people with professional skills and business training.

Improvements in the public management of the historical heritage will also be sought via heritage inventories, oral memories and a data bank of images that will be set up in Flores da Cunha. The latter will coordinate the process of photographic digitalisation

and the creation of virtual museums among the project partners.

In general, the project seeks to enhance and develop local plans for protecting tourist routes by means of complementary actions carried out by the partners. ■

Ayuntamiento de Irun: alliance of public and private sectors for local development

The OBSERVA-NET project, whose coordinator is the Ayuntamiento de Irun (Spain), is based on the conclusions and the methodology acquired in the type-A project “Public/private consultation in the local sphere”, and, with a view to continuity, concerns the work of public/private alliances to encourage local development.

All the partners who took part in the type-A project, plus the Ayuntamiento de Irun as the project’s coordinator, are taking part in this type-B project. They are: the Ayuntamiento de Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Spain), the Municipalidad de Hijuelas (Chile), the Municipalidad de Penco (Chile), the Municipalidad de Junín (Argentina), the Municipalidad de Trelew (Argentina). New partners which have joined this type-B project are the Ayuntamiento de Vila Real de Santo Antonio (Portugal) and the Prefeitura de Rio Claro (Brazil).

The project has two main objectives:

- set up a regional observatory and a management tool for information in all the partner regions.

- carry out three pilot projects on public/private alliances. The first two (one will be carried out in Europe and the other in Latin America) are very closely linked to the work of the previous observatory and are designed to obtain products resulting from the observatory (emerging professional profiles, niches of business activity, etc.).

The second focuses on the work of public/private alliances in the field of tourism, this sector being considered a motor of local economic development. This has emerged from some prior surveying work: identification and formulation of projects in Latin America carried out by Bidasoa Activa (Ayuntamiento de Irun).

The recipients of the project are town councils, local organisations and entities, local technical experts and professionals from the employment sector and also businessmen.

Besides activities to achieve the main objectives, the project attaches great importance to training, dissemination, visibility and information of activities which will go on throughout the project.

The project also has a web site with a dual objective: to serve as a instrument for dissemination and communication between partners and also to accommodate the information management tool (information system) on the internet. ■

Rosario SUMA: “An alternative approach to an urban solution”

The aim of the project is to develop and implement urban planning, social integration and local access strategies aimed at improving depressed and abandoned areas, thereby helping to improve the quality of life and environmental conditions in cities.

The intervention strategies will focus on the following areas:

- Designing and implementing projects to redevelop abandoned and disconnected public spaces in each of the municipalities involved, as part of an integrated methodological approach.
- Formulating a methodology for the urban regeneration of run-down and disconnected spaces that allows for the pooling of experiences and intervention in the municipalities involved.
- Redeveloping the Parque Hipólito Yrigoyen area in the city of Rosario via investment

in infrastructure and restoration of a building of historical value.

- Adding new routes to the TUP (Passenger Transport System) in Rosario that incorporate the Parque Hipólito Yrigoyen in the system of public spaces on the banks of the city.
- Planning for the surrounding areas of Parque Hipólito Yrigoyen via instruments covering: a policy of urban upgrading, public-private consultation, relevant experience and expertise of the partner cities.
- Creating a general atmosphere of social commitment and meeting-up of citizens via cultural exchanges between the partner cities and the coordinating city, involving a range of activities.

The intervention strategy covers two priority areas:

- promoting and involving the partner cities in formulating and implementing projects to redevelop abandoned and disconnected



Cordoba central station

public spaces, under the heading of management and control of urbanisation, thus contributing to urban planning, social integration and regional access.

- implementing an intervention strategy in the coordinating city by carrying out the Parque Hipólito Yrigoyen Project.

These two elements will be used to produce an integrated intervention strategy for the urban regeneration of run-down and disconnected spaces that improve residents' quality of life and environmental conditions in cities. ■



Rosario. Parque Yrigoyen and connection to the system of parks

TYPE-B PROJECTS

Odense Kommune: municipal actions for the training and employment of women in Costa Rica and Central America

Under the type-A project, coordinated by Odense and mainly carried out in Costa Rica, various groups of women were given the tools to set up their own businesses. Job Centres were also established, which proved that it was possible for the municipalities to encourage groups of women at local level to enter the formal labour market, thus improving their economic situation.

Odense Kommune, as coordinator, sought to consolidate and amplify these promising results with the participation of the municipalities of Cuenca, Ecuador;

Nueva San Salvador, El Salvador; Escazú y Acosta, Costa Rica; TajoSalor, Spain, and the Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres de Costa Rica (INAMU).

The central aim of the type-B project is to create a Regional Training Centre for women under the responsibility of the municipal authorities. This Centre will enable the municipalities and local authorities to offer training to women to improve their economic situation. The Centre's training offer will be designed and evaluated via a module for trainers or multipliers.

240 women will be trained under the project, with modules on employment and

income-generating initiatives. In the light of experience of the previous project, it is expected that 30-40% of the women trained will find a place on the employment market by setting up their own business.

Besides creating Job Centres, the municipalities will increase their visibility at local level, improving their image of local administration at the service of the citizen, not only in terms of women job seekers but also private local companies, which will see their possibilities for seeking employees improve.

The purpose of enhancing the training capacity of municipalities is to improve their effective technical capacity for creating job opportunities. ■

Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart: "MOVI-MAN", a mediator supporting mobility

The needs and problems of the cities and the regions in Urban Mobility were identified in the framework of the network URB-AL N° 8, "Management of urban mobility". The network has 183 members spread in 28 countries of Latin America and Europe.

A clear result of the work of the network N° 8 is the identification of a lack of management instruments of mobility management by the local Administrations. Very often, responsibilities are not clear or there is not enough knowledge within the Administrations about the real needs of the protagonists of the mobility as well as about the local specificity in relation with the impact produced by the mobility management.

To mitigate this problem, a new position called "Mobility Manager" will be created. This person will act as mediator and link between the users of the transport infrastructure, on

the one hand, and the authorities responsible for the latter and the companies of transport of the area, on the other hand.

The task of the Mobility Manager consists in informing and advising the actors of the area about all different aspects of mobility. That way, it will be ensured the delivery to the Administration of better information on the problems and special challenges of the transport infrastructure in that specific industrial area. This action allows the Administration to manage the urban mobility more efficiently (transport planning optimization, transport management, and transport regulation).

The B project "Movi-Man" is coordinated by the Municipality of Stuttgart (<http://www.stuttgart.de/europa/urb-al>). The creation of the Mobility Manager position will start in the Wallgraben industrial area. 20.000 people of this area (137 ha) work at present in 700 companies (see photo). In order to assure the transmission of the results throughout

the network N° 8 of URB-AL, a Mobility Manager position will also be created in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and Cartagena de India, Colombia industrial areas. The other partners of the project are the Forum of Bizkaia (Spain), Leicester (England), Criciuma and Curitiba (Brazil), San Salvador (El Salvador), and two external partners, the University of Stuttgart and the Industrievereinigung Vaihingen-Möhringen (industrial Association). ■

Contact:

Dr. Ulrich Steimer
Bürgermeisteramt, Technisches
Referat, Abteilung Verkehrsausbau
und Investitionen
Marktplatz 1
70049 Stuttgart
Tel: + 49.711.216.2590
Fax: + 49.711.216.8294
Email: ulrich.steimer@stuttgart.de

PROJECTS

Over 60 joint projects have concluded their activities under the 8 networks of the first phase of the Programme

Over 60 projects for exchanging experiences have concluded their activities under the networks of the first phase. In the first half of the year, 13 joint projects completed their activities.

Coordinator	Country	Project No	Project title
Municipalidad de Arica	Chile	R2-P3-99	Centro – Barrio y Know How Local
Provincia di Perugia	Italy	R2-P3-00	La trasformazione dei centri storici ed il recupero del ruolo partecipativo della popolazione per forme di sviluppo sostenibile
Prefeitura Municipal de Belo Horizonte	Brazil	R3-P2-00	Internet: Outil de perfectionnement de la Démocratie locale
Alcaldía de Manizales	Colombia	R3-P3-00	Juventud y participación ciudadana: prácticas, formación y acciones
Ayuntamiento de Córdoba	Spain	R3-P6-01	Los presupuestos participativos: hacia nuevas formas de gobernabilidad local
Ville Le Lamentin (Martinique)	France	R3-P9-01	Le budget participatif appliqué aux jeunes: un outil au service des politiques municipales en faveur de la jeunesse
Ville de Charleroi	Belgium	R4-P5-01	TURDEL: mise en œuvre d'une stratégie intégrée de développement touristique durable
Ayuntamiento de Rubí	Spain	R4-P12-01	Energías renovables y oportunidades de empleo ENERGIA+D
Comune di Ariccia	Italy	R6-P3-02	Améliorer l'environnement urbain: identifications des actions à mettre en œuvre en vue de la valorisation des espaces verts et de la revitalisation des centres historiques des zones urbaines
Prefeitura de Florianópolis	Brazil	R7-P4-01	Gestión de la Urbanización en ciudades turísticas
Mancomunidad de Municipios del Area Metropolitana de Barcelona	Spain	R7-P8-01	Organización de las Areas Metropolitanas e Instrumentos de Intervención
Regione Toscana	Italy	R7-P10-02	Identificación de instrumentos de Planificación de la urbanización: el enfoque multidisciplinar y integrado
Provincia de Treviso	Italy	R8-P9-01	Virtual Community for road safety. Prevention of road accidents and diffusion of the culture of safety

CALL TO PROPOSAL

Centre of Documentation URB-AL and Observatory of local decentralized cooperation EU-LA

The European Commission has decided to trust the co-ordination of a Centre of Documentation URB-AL, on one hand, and of an Observatory of local decentralized cooperation EU-LA, on the other hand, to two consortiums of two cities - a European and a Latin American - that have taken part actively in the development of the Programme. The corresponding grants will be of a maximum of EUR 800.000 and of 1.200.000 euros, respectively.

The Commission has entrusted two independent experts the realization of an evaluation of this first phase as a whole. The results of this evaluation have been delivered in February 2004. Between the principal recommendations of the evaluation, it emphasizes the need to fund the Programme of a petition that permits assuring the centralization, the conservation and the circulation of the results of the activities of the same Programme.

On the other hand, in the framework of the preparation of the Summit of Guadalajara in May 2004, the European Commission decided to organize a **Conference on local partnership between the EU and Latin America**. The Conference took place in the city of Valparaiso from the 22 to 24 March 2004. Among the recommendations, expressed so much in the basic Document as in the Valparaiso Declaration, emphasizes the relevance of the creation of an Observatory of

decentralized cooperation among local groups (see page 8 and 9).

Both calls have been published in July of this year. The date of delivery of the proposals has been determined to the 7 and 8 October 2004, respectively. The documents are available on the website of EUROPEAID <http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>.

CONTACTS



Your Commission contacts

Head of Unit: Riccardo GAMBINI
 Coordinator: Vittorio TONUTTI
 Projects Managers: Marc RIMEZ, Miguel ROMERO,
 Thierry FOURNIER-VILAY, Marie TILBURCK

Address:

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 EuropeAid Cooperation Office
 Latin America Directorate
 Unit E2 "Centralized Operations Latin America"
 URB-AL Programme
 J54 4/13
 B -1049 Brussels (Belgium)
 Telephone: (32 2) 298 46 35
 Fax: (32 2) 299 10 80

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/urbal/index_en.htm

DELEGATION	CONTACT
Argentina	Constanza AJA ESPIL Tel.: 54-11- 4805.3759 constanza.aja-espil@cec.eu.int http://www.delarg.cec.eu.int/
Bolivia	Angel GUTIERREZ HIDALGO Tel: 591-2-278.22.44 angel.gutierrez-hidalgo@cec.eu.int http://www.delbol.cec.eu.int/
Brazil	María Cristina ARAUJO Tel.: 55- 61- 248.3122 – Fax: 55-61-248.0700 cristina.araujo@cec.eu.int http://www.delbra.cec.eu.int/
Chile	Joséphine ARPAILLANGE Tel: 56-2 -335.24.50 josephine.arpaillange@cec.eu.int http://www.delchl.cec.eu.int/
Colombia and Ecuador	Carlos AYALA SAAVEDRA Tel: 57-1- 621.60.43 carlos.ayala-saavedra@cec.eu.int http://www.delco.cec.eu.int
Mexico	Cristina MARTINEZ CASTELLANOS Tel: 52-55- 55 40 33 45 cristina.martinez-castellanos@cec.eu.int http://www.delmex.cec.eu.int/
Nicaragua – Costa Rica – El Salvador – Guatemala – Honduras	Inmaculada ROCA I CORTES Tel: 505 -270.44.99 - Fax: 505 270.44.84 Inmaculada.ROCA-I-CORTES@cec.eu.int http://www.delnic.cec.eu.int
Peru	José Luis ARTEAGA CESPEDES Tel: 51-1-212-11-35 jose-luis.arteaga-cespedes@cec.eu.int http://www.delper.cec.eu.int
Uruguay – Paraguay	Mylène TESTUT Tel: 598-2- 1944.0126 mylene.testut@cec.eu.int http://www.delury.cec.eu.int
Venezuela	Jean-Charles FIEHRER Tel: 58-212-991.51.33 Jean-charles.fiehrer@cec.eu.int http://www.delven.cec.eu.int

Information sources

NETWORK N° 6

Urban Environnement

Co-ordination: Ayuntamiento de Málaga
 Contact: Pedro Marín Cots
 Address: Programa URB-AL - Red n° 6
 Plaza de la Alcazaba s/n
 Edif. Aparcamientos
 E-29012 Málaga - España
 Tel.: 34- 952 60. 27. 77
 Fax: 34 -952-22. 30. 92
 E-mail: red6@urbalmalaga.com -
 pmarin@ayto-malaga.es
 Internet: www.urbalmalaga.com

NETWORK N° 9

Local finance and participative budget

Co-ordination: Prefeitura Municipal de Porto Alegre
 Contact: Eduardo Mancuso
 Address: Programa URB-AL Rede 9
 Rua Uruguai 155/14° andar
 CEP 90010-140 - Porto Alegre – RS - Brasil
 Tel.: 55-51-3289.3628 / 3651
 Fax: 55- 51- 3211.1265
 E-mail: emancuso@gp.prefpoa.com.br
 urbalop@gp.prefpoa.com.br
 Internet: http://www.portoalegre.rs.gov.br/URBAL/

NETWORK N° 10

The fight against urban poverty

Co-ordination: Prefeitura Municipal de São Paulo
 Contact: Sinoel Batista
 Address: Programa URB-AL Rede 10
 Palácio Anhangabaú - Viaduto do Chá, 15 -
 7o.andar
 CEP 01002-020 - São Paulo-SP
 Brasil
 Tel: 55-11-3113.8551 / 8554 / 8547
 Fax: 55-11-3113.85.48
 E-mail: urbal10@prefeitura.sp.gov.br
 Internet: www.urbal10.sp.gov.br

NETWORK N° 12

Promoting the role of women in local decision-making bodies

Co-ordination: Diputación de Barcelona
 Contact: Eva Mª Gispert
 Gabinet de Relacions Internacionals
 Address: Còrrega 300, ppal. 1ª
 E - 08008 BARCELONA
 Tel: 34-93-40220.55
 Fax: 34-93-402.24.73
 E-mail: grii.red12urbal@diba.es
 Internet: www.diba.es/urbal12/

NETWORK N° 13

Towns and the information society

Co-ordination: Freie Hansestadt Bremen
 Contact: Claire Klindt
 Address: Office Network 13
 Kreuzstrasse 72
 D -28203 Bremen
 Tel: 49- 421-3695.40
 Fax : 49- 421 3695.425
 E-mail: claire@whitebalance.de
 Internet: www.bremen.de/urb-al/

NETWORK N° 14

Citizens' safety in towns

Co-ordination: Municipalidad de Valparaíso
 Contact: Gustavo Paulsen
 Address: Programa URB-AL Red 14
 Blanco 1663 – Oficina 1002
 Valparaíso - Chile
 Tel: 56-32 -939.571
 Fax: 56- 32- 939.572
 E-mail: red14@urbalvalparaiso.cl
 Internet: www.urbalvalparaiso.cl

Conference on local partnership UE-AL

Co-ordination: Municipalidad de Valparaíso
 Contacts: Gustavo Paulsen
 María del Huerto Romero
 Address: Conferencia URB-AL
 Blanco 1663- Oficina 1002
 Valparaíso - Chile
 Tel: 56-32-939.805
 Fax: 56-32-939.572
 E-mail: conferencia@conferenciaurbal.cl
 mromero@conferenciaurbal.cl
 Internet: www.conferenciaurbal.cl

