

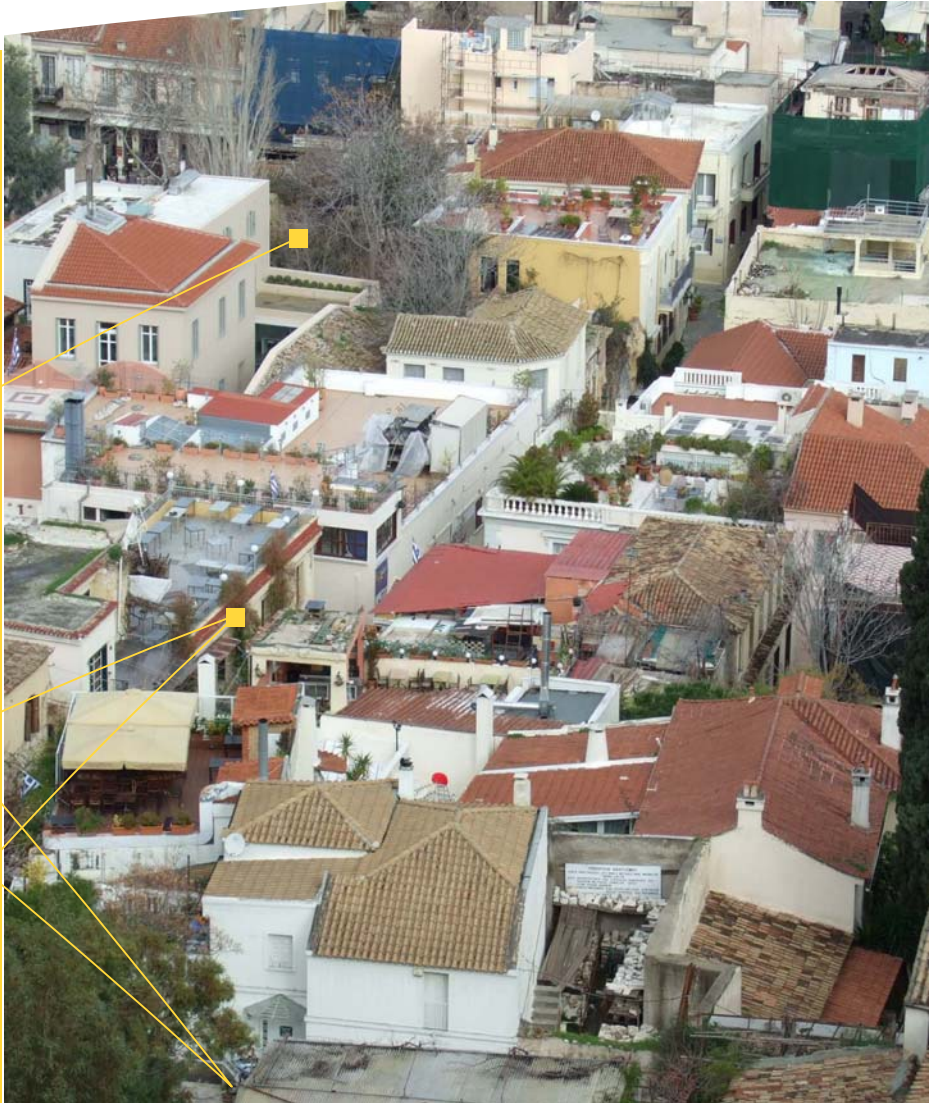
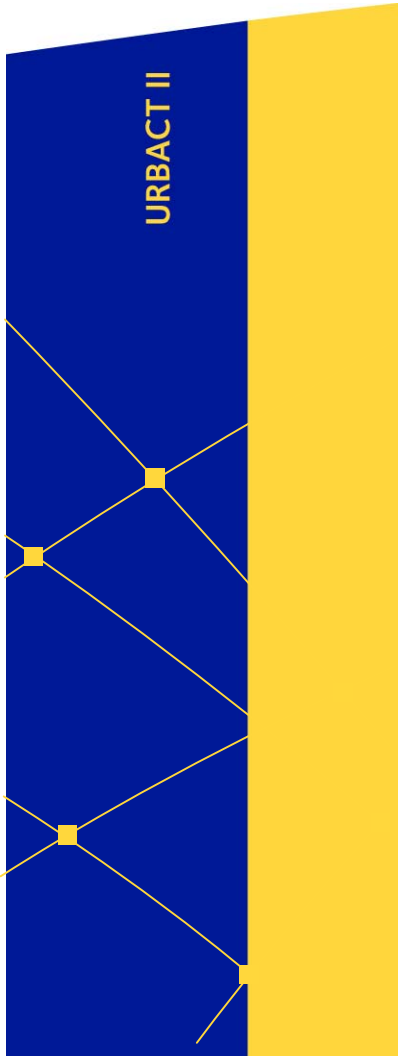


"Regions, Cities, Neighbourhoods - strong Partners"

# Newsletter #5 REGGOV

# N°5

## Regional Governance of Sustainable Integrated Development of Deprived Urban Areas



Connecting cities  
Building successes





# REGGOV NEWSLETTER # 5

## INTRODUCTION

The fifth edition of the RegGov newsletter starts with impressions from the second meeting of Cluster 4 “Monitoring Systems” which was the last meeting of the second round of Thematic Clusters, giving a brief overview on the two-day meeting with its contents and discussions.

Furthermore, two articles on the local progress show the state of work related to the LAP and LSG in Halandri (Greece) and Köbanya (Hungary), useable as basis of good practice within the RegGov network, and present the processes of integrated neighbourhood development, directly from the local level.

A further highlight of this newsletter is the information on the published Good Practice Brochure on integrated city development in North Rhine-Westphalia which outlines the structure and bases of the programme ‘Socially Integrative City NRW’ together with good practice examples.

The newsletter closes with an article on a seminar of the “Youth in Action” programme and important news and announcements of the RegGov network.

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## IMPRESSIONS OF THE SECOND ROUND OF CLUSTER MEETINGS

The last newsletter (N°4) has covered three of four cluster meetings within the second round. In the following, the city of Nijmegen as active RegGov partner contributes with his impressions from the second meeting of Cluster 4 held in Siracusa in June 2010. It dealt with “The function of city-wide monitoring systems for the development of urban neighbourhoods”, giving a brief overview on the two-day meeting and its discussions.

### Cluster 4 “Monitoring systems” in Siracusa (Italy), June 2010

*Impressions of Kees Goderie, City of Nijmegen, Section of Research and Statistics*

The first cluster meeting had taken place in Duisburg in May 2009. There we have informed and exchanged about the principles of monitoring and the state of affairs in our cities. In Siracusa we went one step further and specified the theme to the use of monitoring results in neighbourhood policy, especially disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

A lucky consequence of the need to arrange some organisational aspects for the RegGov Network as a whole was that not only the cluster participants of Siracusa, Köbanya, Södertälje, Halandri, Duisburg, Gelsenkirchen and Nijmegen were present, but also Nyiregyhaza, Satu Mare and Ruda Slaska.

The first day had a start with the welcome of representatives of the municipality of Siracusa and an introduction to the contents by the Lead Expert Petra Potz. She referred to the questionnaires about monitoring that were distributed during the weeks before the cluster meeting, and were completed and submitted by all cities. The results indicated that all cities have deprived areas and that socio-economic problems are more important than physical problems. Also do all cities use in one or another way statistical data. But nevertheless the differences between the scale of the problems and the level of monitoring are very big.

That was confirmed by the lectures later that day. The city-wide monitoring systems in Duisburg and Nijmegen are strongly developed:



*Siracusa, Ortigia, Piazza Duomo with the city hall (right)*

many sorts of data, on local and (sub) neighbourhood scale, quantitative and qualitative. The availability of all that data makes it possible to detect problems (“early warning”), to identify priority areas and to monitor the results of policy efforts in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. In the other cities the availability of data and monitoring practice is less, in some of them much less. Sometimes there are only few data from national sources. Also there are great differences in the quality and rationality of rehabilitation plans for neighbourhoods.

In the afternoon, we saw a good example of that during the field trip through some neighbourhoods of Siracusa, especially the deprived areas with many, quite poor apartment buildings and high unemployment. This was a big contrast with the touristic setting of Ortigia, the renovated harbour area in which we had our meetings (city hall) and hotel.



*Field trip through deprived neighbourhoods in Siracusa*

During the second day we further discussed the experiences in our cities referring to the collection of data and the use of monitoring instruments. And above all we tried to determine what lessons to be learnt for cities that are still at a (relative) start of real data collection and monitoring.



*Field trip through deprived neighbourhoods in Siracusa*

I would like to mention the following three important conclusions from the discussion:

- An essential condition is the commitment in the administration and organisation on that issue. You have to talk with people about the value of good data and the positive effects on good policy. Directors have to be convinced that it is necessary to have some people in the organisation that are responsible for data and research, not for the sake of data and research itself, but for the sake of rational policy. It was striking that during this second cluster meeting on monitoring we spoke less about techniques and more about behaviour and action to reach commitment.
- With perseverance and creativity a small team of people can obtain results, collecting the data that are available from different sources, editing them, publishing them and bringing them into the discourse with politicians, directorates and (representatives of) the population. An example of this is the initiative of Tomasz Rzezucha in Ruda Slaska to compose – with relatively little tools – a statistical book of his city.
- An important component of monitoring is the evaluation of projects, especially social projects. What is the output, what are the effects? What are the success stories, what are the failures? The need to do evaluation studies is as well a matter of good monitoring as the collection of statistical data and information from population surveys.

The overall conclusion was the hope that these conclusions or rather the awareness of them will help to start new incentives in the cities. In January 2011 we will have the third cluster meeting in Nijmegen. There we will go on with these themes and look for practical evidence in the cities that good monitoring can have a serious and valuable influence on the realisation of successful projects. When it becomes visible for politicians and directors there will be more commitment to start with or to give (more) support to a statistics or research section within the organisation of the municipality.

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# LSG WORK WITHIN REGGOV

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## HALANDRI'S LOCAL ACTION PLAN GOING PUBLIC

With two public events, held on April 25 and on May 20, 2010 respectively, the Local Support Group of Halandri has gone into a process of opening the creation of the Local Action Plan to a wider group of inhabitants of the Patima area.

The first of the events served as a general introduction to the RegGov project. The main characteristics and the goals of the network have been presented and at the same time it was announced the distribution of a questionnaire.

After having concluded, during its previous meetings, on the axes, around which the LAP is going to be deployed, the LSG along with the Direction of Planning and Development of the Municipality had drawn up a questionnaire to be distributed in the area. The inhabitants were asked to trace and indicate the problems they confront in their everyday life and allocate them to the respective predesignated axes.

This was the first of a series of open discussions that were initiated and supported by the Municipality asking actually inhabitants to take actively part in local governance.



*Open debate – an inhabitant of the area presenting his view on the LAP.*



*Alexander Cappos presenting the axes of the local action plan next to the moderator Yiannis Kollyris*

The reactions have been divided into the suspicious and the enthusiastic ones. A success story? A first connection between administration and inhabitants - via the LSG - has been accomplished after a long time!

This first event has been followed by an information campaign that has been supported by the publication of a special issue of the 'Halandri' magazine dedicated to the RegGov project and the creation of the Local Action Plan. The questionnaire has been distributed in 300 copies.

The second event - the official one - had been dedicated to the core essence of the creation of the LAP. On behalf of the LSG, Alexander Cappos, after recapitulating the results of the previous event presented the work made up until that moment by the local support group. He then analyzed and concentrated on the four LAP axes:

1. Upgrade of the urban environment
2. Protection and rise to prominence of the natural environment
3. Strengthening of social cohesion
4. Empowering local entrepreneurship



Then the audience was asked to contribute to an open debate and not only raise issues but also suggest possible and foreseeable solutions to help draw up the renewal strategy of the area. After a vivid and lengthy dialogue, all ideas and suggestions were summarized according to axis and then recorded on post-it boards in the room to be later evaluated by the local support group.

The significance of the debate has also attracted wide participation from the members of the City Council. The Mayor, Grigoris Zafeiropoulos, in his intervention expressed his full support to this effort and summoned the citizens for more active and productive participation.

In concluding the official LAP event, many of the citizens present underlined the importance of such events that give them the opportunity to communicate directly with the administration and even take part in the strategy planning procedures and asked for corresponding activities in other fields of public life as well.

The next public meeting has been set by the LSG for this coming November when the first draft of the Local Action Plan will be publicized for public consultation.

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*Everyone was urged to contribute by filling in the questionnaire.*



*The Mayor of Halandri, Grigoris Zafeiropoulos, the president of the city council and members of the opposition parties have been present in the official (second) event held in a public school in Patima.*



*The cover of the 'Halandri' issue dedicated to the RegGov project.*

## SOCIAL URBAN RENEWAL ON THE PONGRAC HOUSING ESTATE OF KÖBANYA, BUDAPEST (HU)

The local action plan of the Pongrac housing estate in Köbanya, Budapest has reached an important milestone in August 2010. Based on the approved local action plan, the Municipality of Köbanya submitted a project proposal for a social urban renewal programme of the Pongrac housing estate in May 2010 under the KMOP-5.1.1/A funding scheme of the Central Hungarian Operational Programme. The first phase of the project proposal evaluation has finished in August 2010. The Managing Authority of the Regional Development Programs has supported the project proposal, and decided to fund almost 80% of the project if all the necessary requirements are fulfilled by the Municipality of Köbanya. This is certainly an important step; the final decision will be made when the second phase of the project proposal evaluation is finished early next year.

of socially and economically disadvantaged population. The EU funded projects are supposed to stop further degradation of the neighbourhood and improve both the quality of the built environment and quality of life of people living in the neighbourhood. By means of social 'soft' programmes, the projects are supposed to bring new opportunities for the people: provide vocational training and assist them re-entering the employment market, help the elderly and the disadvantaged youth, bringing the neighbourhood together and fostering the community spirit by providing programmes, street festivals etc.



### A short summary of the project

The Municipality of Köbanya considers the revitalization and urban renewal of the run-down housing areas and improving the quality of life of people living in these areas as one of the most important priorities of the municipality.

The Central Hungarian Region Operational Programme's social urban renewal competition called for project proposals in this field, thus providing a unique opportunity for social urban renewal programmes.

The goal of the call for project proposals is to stop the negative spiral of degradation of deprived urban neighbourhoods with a high degree

The Pongrac urban renewal project proposal is a rather complex and elaborated series of projects, with a considerable support from the locals living in the Pongrac housing estate. It consists of several elements:

1. Strengthening the residential function of the neighbourhood, renovation of the housing stock

The common parts of the houses will be renovated: the roofs, the corridors, the pipeline, the electricity network etc.

2. Strengthening the urban function of the neighbourhood, revitalization of the public realm

Local residents will be involved by public participation in the design of:



- open space layout – neighbourhood agora
- playgrounds
- small gardens between the buildings
- recreational facilities

3. Strengthening the economic and public service functions of the neighbourhood, renovation and renewal of social welfare and cultural facilities

A kindergarten and day-care centre complex will undergo major renovation, and a small new cultural centre will be created in an existing building, which will provide a venue for most of the soft program elements.

4. Social 'soft' programs, trainings, events

So-called „soft programme” elements, two types of soft programmes will be organized: 1) programmes provided by the consortium partners; 2) „Soft Programme Fund” – civic society, foundations can apply for funding for small-scale projects.



### Partnership

The project will be implemented in close partnership with all stakeholders:

- Municipality of Köbanya – Lead Partner of the project consortium
- Local residents – Representatives of the 20 housing associations
- Local secondary school
- KÖKERT – municipal company responsible for street and park maintenance
- Köbanya district police-station
- Köbanya Childcare Centre – municipal company responsible for the well being of children

- Köbanya Family Support Service – municipal company responsible for the supporting families in need
- Local entrepreneur
- Urban development division of the municipal property maintenance company – recently created in order to take care of the project management



### Project timetable

Project planning phase:

June 2009 - January 2010

Project proposal documentation, submission of proposal: January 2010 - May 2010

Project evaluation phase:

May-August 2010 and February-April 2011

Project implementation phase:

July 2011 - December 2013

### Project financing

This type of social urban renewal competition (code: KMOP-2009-5.1.1/A) offers a very unique funding opportunity:

EU subsidy:	3.355,435 €	79,02%
Funding by the Municipality:	644,069 €	15,17%
Funding provided by the locals:	246,826 €	5,81%
Overall project size:	4.246,330 €	100,00%

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## Socially Integrative City in North Rhine-Westphalia Getting deprived urban areas back on track

### GOOD PRACTICE BROCHURE ON INTEGRATED CITY DEVELOPMENT IN NRW

In September 2010, the brochure “Socially Integrative City in North Rhine-Westphalia – getting deprived urban areas back on track” has been released by the Ministry for Economy, Energy, Building, Housing and Transport of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW).

The brochure deals with the concept of integrated city development which has been implemented in Europe since the mid 1990s. At that time, the awareness also in NRW grew that complex problems require multidimensional and co-ordinated action by various urban players. Remedying only the urban planning failures and the poor status of buildings and places does not solve the economic, social, educational and integration policy related as well as ecological problems of a neighbourhood. Therefore, in the North Rhine-Westphalian urban development programme Socially Integrative City, the setting up of integrated action plans as well as horizontal and vertical networking of relevant players has become binding.

The publication consists of 70 pages and is divided into two parts. The first part gives an overview on the structure and the basis of the programme Socially Integrative City. Apart from all the theory, it elucidates the main principles of integrated city development and how the programme works in NRW. The second part steps inside the praxis of the cities. Within the scope of the Socially Integrative City, a broad spectrum of activities in many fields of action is available. A selection of the projects is presented showing the great diversity within the programme.

The programme Socially Integrative City NRW is to be understood as a learning programme in which ideas and experiences from different towns, cities and players come together and complement and fertilize each other. In this sense the brochure is a contribution from NRW to the current discussion on the development of urban policy in Europe.

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# YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME

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## EMPLOYMOBILITY TRAINING IN SEVILLE (SPAIN)

In the period of 6-12 September 2010 the EmployMobility Training in Seville (Spain) took place in the context of the Youth in Action Programme 2007-2013, financed by the European Commission. The Program's aim is to inspire a sense of active Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future.

The theme of the EmployMobility Training was "An innovative approach on Mobility to raise Youth Employability in Europe". It was organized and hosted by the Gantalcala Youth Association, who's mission is to be a line between different sectors of society in order to contribute to young people personal fulfilment, social inclusion, active citizenship and employability.



This training put together 30 youth workers from 13 European countries, to acquire knowledge and tools of Mobility, as a strategy to raise youth Employability in Europe. The used methodologies were based on non formal learning such us: workshops, presentations, round tables and role playing. The role plays express in the most appropriate way the feelings of a youth searching for a job, the power relations between a youth job seeker and an organization, and setting up possible partnerships between the social actors.

In the centre of the need of cooperation between the different sectors of the society

was the common problem of all EU countries, namely the high percentage of youth unemployment.

The subject of the training refers to the cultural and geographical dimension, as well as to the visibility of the programme. The programme provided really interesting theoretical and practical information and very useful experiences from the participants.



The cohesion of the participants was assured by different activities such as: energizers, expo tours, intercultural evening, and visit to Seville, not at least we experienced the specific Spanish dish "tapas".

It was a challenge to us to be innovative and work together because of the diversity of the people. In spite of this we made some really useful and elaborated plans, plans which needed creativity and experience.

If I have to characterize the training I would use the following words: dynamism, creativity, inspiration and adventure.

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# REGGOV CALENDAR NEWS

## REGGOV Final Conference in Duisburg on 12/13 May 2011 – Save the date!

The RegGov Fast Track Network is one of the URBACT II projects which will end before the summer of 2011.

The nine involved and active partners are working diligently and successfully for about two years on integrated strategies for a sustainable development of deprived urban neighbourhoods. This includes a particularly close, trustful and efficient co-operation between the partner cities and their Managing Authorities to support the development of new and improved forms of co-operation.

The preparations of the final of the project have already started. Partners are working to complete the successful efforts and results of exchange and learning activities. The project will organise

### **the RegGov Final Conference in Duisburg (Germany) on Thursday, May 12 and Friday, May 13, 2011.**

*May 11, 2011: Arrival and joining dinner*

*May 12, 2011: Duisburg excursion  
RegGov Final Conference*

*May 13, 2011: NRW excursion  
Exhibition "StadtteilLeben"*

*May 14, 2011: Internal RegGov closure*

The conference will take place in the Landscape Park Duisburg-North ("*Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord*") - former steelworks developed into an intra-urban and multifunctional landscape park which connects industrial heritage, nature and city life. The results of the RegGov work will be presented in a European conference (May 12, 2011).

Highlight during these two days will be a common event of the RegGov project and the regional city-network "Socially Integrated City" of North Rhine-Westphalia on the second conference day (May 13, 2011) which will be dedicated to an exhibition on the topic of integrated

neighbourhood development. All cities and neighbourhoods involved in the regional city-network and the RegGov partner cities will participate presenting their neighbourhoods and projects.

The City of Duisburg in co-operation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Energy, Building, Housing and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the "Socially Integrated City" network are cordially inviting everybody interested to attend and to contribute to the Final Conference. More detailed information on this major event will be provided in due time. Please save the date!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Thematic Seminar "Regional Governance" in Satu Mare and Nyiregyhaza from 24-27 October 2010

The Third Thematic Seminar of the RegGov network will take place from Sunday, October 24 to Wednesday, October 27, 2010.

The seminar will be organised between the twin cities of Satu Mare (RO) and Nyiregyhaza (HU). It will deal with the topic "Elements for successful regeneration - What does it need from the administrative levels?". RegGov partners, Managing Authorities, representatives from the European Commission and the URBACT Secretariat have been invited. Further detailed information will be provided soon.

## The third round of cluster meetings – Save the dates!

The dates and locations for the third round of cluster meetings continuing the common work and discussion on the defined topics are confirmed. The detailed information is listed below:

- Cluster 1 "Regional Co-operation"  
31 Jan/1 Feb 2011 | Halandri (Greece)
- Cluster 2 "Private Sector"  
9/10 Dec 2010 | Södertälje (Sweden)



- Cluster 3 "Integration"  
15/16 Nov 2010 | Dortmund (Germany)
- Cluster 4 "Monitoring"  
17/18 Jan 2011 | Nijmegen (Netherlands)

### Cluster Reports now available!

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Three of four Reports of the second round of Thematic Clusters held from April to June 2010 have been published.

The Thematic Report of:

- the second meeting of Cluster 1 "Regional Cooperation" held in Ruda Slaska (PL) in May 2010,
- the second meeting of Cluster 2 "Private Involvement" held in Satu Mare (RO) in April 2010, and
- the second meeting of Cluster 3 "Roma Integration" held in Köbanya (HU) in May 2010

are now available on the RegGov website ([www.urbact.eu/reg\\_gov](http://www.urbact.eu/reg_gov)) in the Outputs section for download. The report of the second meeting of Cluster 4 "Monitoring Systems" held in Siracusa (Sicily) in June 2010 will be published within short time.

### URBACT Annual Conference 2010

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The URBACT Annual Conference 2010 will take place in Liège in Belgium, from Tuesday, November 30 to Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

The event will bring together URBACT partners and urban actors coming from all over Europe. The Conference will be introduced by Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner responsible for Regional Policy, Charles Picqué, Minister-President of the Brussels Capital-Region and Mercedes Caballero, Chairwoman of the URBACT Monitoring Committee.

The economic crisis is having an impact on European cities in a variety of forms and contexts. All cities have to consider the impact of reduced funding and changes in traditional policies. Sustainable integrated urban development, promoted by the European Commission and the Member States, can be a response to such issues and URBACT plays a key role in fostering it.

Exchanges among URBACT cities have been going on for three years, and the URBACT Programme has also passed its mid-term. In this regard, all participants will discuss the urban challenges and innovative, integrated

and sustainable solutions during the URBACT conference. The conference will offer interactive workshops, plenary sessions translated into seven languages and many opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking. An ice breaking dinner will be offered on Tuesday evening by the City of Liège.

You are members of the URBACT community: active players in European cities, local, regional and national authorities, Local Support Groups, Managing Authorities of Operational Programmes, etc... The conference is dedicated to you!

### RegGov: Second Reprogramming

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The Lead Partner of the RegGov project, the City of Duisburg has started a second reprogramming procedure.

The main reason for this demand is that the RegGov project depends on this last chance of a reprogramming procedure within the project life in order to redeploy and readapt the project in line with changed needs. For example, the Extraordinary Partner Meeting in Duisburg held on 22/23 February 2010 wasn't intended within the project. As a main required change, the above-mentioned Duisburg meeting shall now be integrated in the project's work programme through the reprogramming procedure.

The intended changes only concern the project's central organisation, so that there will be no impacts for the partner cities. This intention was discussed with the partner cities who have agreed and consented to this request.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> National URBACT Day in Berlin

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The next national URBACT Day in Germany will take place in Berlin on December 13, 2010. The RegGov network will be represented at the conference by the Lead Partner, the City of Duisburg, and the Lead Expert, Petra Potz.

The conference's official language is only German and focuses on the situation in Germany and Austria, but is also related to the situation in cities and neighbourhoods in other European countries.

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