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# NEWSLETTER

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# LEAD EXPERT'S NOTE

## METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE

*By Fernando Barreiro,  
NeT TOPIC's Lead Expert*

NeT-TOPIC cities share a set of common challenges. All of them are peripheral territories located in different European metropolitan areas. These cities have developed and continue to develop strategies to transform their nature as urban slums, which were created and evolved in the context of the industrialisation process some decades ago. This peripheral character generated fragmented cities, typified as dormitory cities, far away from the main city's central spaces and core functions. In this framework, these cities have worked to become territories with greater urban integration, better public spaces and which provide better living conditions for their citizens.

Nowadays, metropolitan areas are configured as polycentric cities, overcoming the old dichotomy between the dynamic and traditional central city and suburban municipalities. The old, hierarchical division of narrowly defined urban functions is giving way to multi-functional territories, the establishment of new centres and, above all, new flows and mobility that generate interdependency and complementarity between territories.

In any case, this new urban configuration is giving place to **real city-regions**, where the whole and its parts establish new links to ensure the metropolitan area's development, social cohesion and environmental sustainability. That is why "new metropolitan governance" is one of the key elements in addressing the challenges of the old peripheries, as it requires, among other things, the formation of new alliances, pacts and institutional systems that allow flexible decisions and recognise this new urban geography, which goes beyond inherited administrative boundaries within the city-region.

NeT-TOPIC cities, in one way or another, actively participate in this new metropolitan governance dynamic in order to position the metropolitan peripheries in a diverse, cohesive polycentric city. NeT-TOPIC provides an opportunity for reflection, sharing and learning, so that its cities can strengthen their role in their own metropolitan governance. **The seminar on metropolitan governance held in Nanterre recently was a good example of these concerns**, and revealed the evolution of different forms of metropolitan governance in the cities that comprise the network.

# LAST MONTHS



## THIRD THEMATIC SEMINAR: NEW FORMS OF URBAN AND METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE

NANTERRE, 1-2 OCTOBER 2010

Last 1-2 October 2010, Nanterre held the third Thematic Seminar in the framework of the NeT-TOPIC network. The event, entitled "ENHANCING NEW FORMS OF URBAN AND METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE" was specially focused on the point of view of peripheral intermediate cities located in metropolitan areas.



In general terms, Metropolitan Governance deals with governing and managing urban issues across boundaries (geographical and administrative boundaries). New models of governance for European Metropolitan areas have to be developed, in the face of globalization of the local economy, the rising share of service-based activities (both for business and residents), the development of new information and communication technologies, increased mobility, the fragmentation of urban space, and social and spatial segregation. The seminar's aim was to explore the theme, taking into account peripheral local authorities' points of view.



The seminar intended to bring together expert speakers on the theme, as well as to present some practical experiences. Mr. Jordi Borja (geographer and urban planner co-director of the "City Management" postgraduate programme at the Open University of Catalonia) analysed the current challenges facing urban planning in European metropolises and the role of peripheral cities. Ms. Heloïse Nez (professor at University Paris 13 and researcher at Laboratoire Architecture Ville Urbanisme Environment) talked about the future potential and limits of citizen participation in metropolitan policies. Finally, Mr. Christian Lefevre (professor at the Institut Français d'Urbanisme, University Paris Est and researcher at LATTs centre) reflected on the metropolis, new forms of urban governance and the new challenges to be faced.

In addition to the experts' contributions, four NeT-TOPIC cities with significant experience on the issues explained their cases: Nanterre – Paris metropolitan area (Mr. Perreau Bezouille, 1st Deputy Mayor); Salford – Manchester metropolitan area (Councillor Antrobus, Lead Member for Planning); Sacele – Brasov metropolitan area (Mr. Nistor, Mayor); and L'Hospitalet de Llobregat – Barcelona metropolitan area (Ms. Ana Maria Prados, Councillor of Urban Planning and Public Works and 4th Deputy Mayor).



NeT-TOPIC

# LAST MONTHS

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The exchanges, discussions and knowledge gained within this seminar were related to different fields of metropolitan governance:

- Urban planning across public government boundaries, the public-public relation within metropolitan areas.
- Cross-boundary economic development and labour markets.
- Citizen participation and civil society across boundaries. The challenges facing a metropolitan community.

A thematic publication on the speeches and conclusions from the Third Seminar will be available shortly. In the meantime, you can view the Position Paper (on the NeT-TOPIC webspace) drafted by NeT-TOPIC partners, where they express their experiences and concerns in relation to the subject matter. This document aimed to offer a framework in order to ensure a clear focus for the seminar.



# LAST MONTHS

## SECOND WORKSHOP-LAB IN L'HOSPITALET L'HOSPITALET, 24-25 NOVEMBER 2010

On 24-25 November 2010, L'Hospitalet organised the second and final workshop/lab within the NeT-TOPIC framework. At this point in time, only some months before the end of the project, the main aim of this internal working meeting was to compile a set of issues in order to make sure that the partner cities get the most out of their participation in the network and that good, useful results are produced after the two and a half years of joint work.

Project Partners, with the coordination of the Lead Expert, exchanged news on the progress of their Local Action Plans. LAPs should contain specific operational output that will address the problems identified by the partner at the beginning of the project and draw on the results of the exchange and learning activities implemented by partners over the project's lifetime. Each Local Action Plan should provide each partner with a specific roadmap and a range of solutions to tackle the core issues identified at the start of the UR-BACT project. With just one month to go before the delivery of the LAP, project partners had the chance to put together their documents' progress. The session was intended to be a joint exercise where project partners listened, asked questions and made suggestions in order to improve all partners' LAPs.

Another workshop session was devoted to reflecting on the lessons and recommendations that emerged from the joint exchange work carried out during the course of the project, so that they can be included in the *Guidelines and Recommendations for carrying out Urban Planning Processes*. This document intends to make use of the main findings and conclusions attained in the network's context, so that other cities with similar problems or interests can also benefit.

Partners also started to define the network's Final Event, which will take place in L'Hospitalet on 2-3 March 2011. This closing event is intended to be a presentation of the final conclusions and knowledge gained throughout the course of the network. The partner cities will present their experiences, the Local Action Plans produced, as well as *the Guidelines and Recommendations for carrying out Urban Planning Processes* and *Bank of Urban Transformation Practices* documents.

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NeT-TOPIC

# LAST MONTHS

## L'HOSPITALET ULSG TAKES PART IN THE NETWORK'S SECOND WORKSHOP



Given that the network's second workshop was held in L'Hospitalet, the city's delegation took the opportunity to invite its Local Support Group members to a joint session to get to know other NeT-TOPIC partner cities and their work.

L'Hospitalet Local Support Group is composed of representatives of the City Council, such as the Councillor and Deputy Mayor for Urban Planning and Public Works, representatives from the Urban Development Agency and some external stakeholders, such as representatives from the main trade unions (UGT and CCOO), the Association of Entrepreneurs of L'Hospitalet and Baix Llobregat, the Federation of Neighbourhood Associations and some representatives from the academic field.

The joint session was quite a positive experience. It allowed the L'Hospitalet Local Support Group members to get to know the different local work undertaken in each city regarding the Local Action Plans and Local Support Groups, as well as their different realities. Moreover, it allowed the NeT-TOPIC city partners to familiarise themselves with the L'Hospitalet Group and its work.

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# LAST MONTHS

## AN EXAMPLE OF A NET-TOPIC LOCAL ACTIVITY: KLADNO LOCAL ACTION PLAN IN THE FINAL PHASE

An example of a NeT-TOPIC local activity: Kladno Local Action Plan in its final phase. Since the beginning of 2010, a series of local support group meetings in the framework of the NET-TOPIC project of the URBACT II programme have been held in Kladno City Hall in order to prepare the city's Local Action Plan under the URBACT framework. The initial version of the document was drafted by the end of June 2010, coinciding with the visit of Fernando Barreiro, the URBACT II programme expert. The LAP discussion was subsequently opened to the citizens through a questionnaire form and an invitation to the local support group meetings.



Kladno's aim was to design an "action plan", i.e. a plan defining the preparation and execution of a long-term sustainable development strategy for the city for the coming years. The action plan will be subsequently updated every year, based on the evaluation of the process and results achieved from the projects carried out, as well as the possible changes that might occur, both internally (i.e. within the city's control) and externally (i.e. beyond the city's control), with effects on the current situation and even on the city's long-term development.

However, the intention is not for all of the proposed projects to be carried out in a given period and to their full extent. One of the city action plan's main aims is to enable the possibility of receiving external financing (especially, but not exclusively, from European Union funds) for carrying out projects. That is why Kladno has selected those projects which were considered most likely to be successful in securing financial resources above and beyond the city's budget, excluding low-cost projects and essential projects for which the city does not expect to receive any external funding.

The action plan is not primarily viewed as an obligatory outline of rigidly set actions; rather it is a repository for prepared and preliminarily approved topics (the so called project-pipeline), which facilitates the search for existing finance sources for project realisation. It allows the city to quickly capitalise on the opportunities that arise in this context. Last but not least, the strategic development plan's short-term aim is to exploit the city's potential in the field of strategic planning (drafted documents, human resources, availability of consulting services and project assistance capacities) in order to enhance its ability to obtain European Union funds (thereby increasing its competitiveness in this sphere) and gain as many means as possible to implement city projects.

The European Union provides significant support to Kladno through the URBACT II Programme. The city's managers have gained invaluable experience by exchanging "best practices" with other NeT-TOPIC cities.

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NeT-TOPIC

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## NeT-TOPIC CLOSING EVENT:

L'HOSPITALET 2-3  
MARCH 2011

Next 2-3 March, L'Hospitalet will host the Final Event of the NeT-TOPIC thematic network. After two and a half years of joint work, the partner cities would like to present the final conclusions and findings attained.

During the course of the project, partner cities had the chance to exchange knowledge on and learn about urban transformation processes in intermediate cities located in metropolitan areas next to major cities, especially in relation to the themes identified at the beginning of the project:

- Development and consolidation of an urban identity.
- Enhancement of new forms of urban and metropolitan governance.
- Tackling urban fragmentation caused by roads and communication infrastructures.
- Recovering and restoring abandoned and obsolete industrial areas.
- Planning and managing the transformation from a mono-functional to a multi-functional city.

NeT-TOPIC partner cities analysed the urban fragmentation arising from big infrastructures and obsolete and abandoned industrial areas at the Sesto San Giovanni Seminar, on 20-21 May 2009; urban identity and the transformation from mono-

functional to multi-functional cities at the Salford Seminar, on 21-22 October 2009; and the new forms of urban and metropolitan governance in Nanterre, on 1-2 October 2010.

However, in addition to these and other transnational activities, NeT-TOPIC partners also carried out extensive local work through their **local action plans** and **local support groups**. The eight plans refer to urban transformation processes in intermediate cities located in metropolitan areas next to a major city that have suffered industrial decline or territorial fragmentation, and which sometimes even used to be associated with a stereotyped image. Some of the plans are general reflections on the urban transformation processes carried out so far and the general guidelines that the city should follow for its future transformation, taking into account the new challenges and realities, such as in the case of L'Hospitalet. Others are an analysis of the regeneration benefits and opportunities for surrounding neighbourhoods arising from important developments, such as in the case of MediaCityUK and Salford. Some others involve the development of specific tools, such as Barakaldo's LAP which intends to develop an interactive tool to improve the participative process in urban

transformation processes from the NeT-TOPIC Best Practices Data Base.

Both the cities' **local action plans** developed with the help of the local support groups and the **findings attained** in the framework of the **transnational exchange** – reflected in the *Publications* produced after each seminar, the Guidelines and Recommendations for carrying out Urban Planning Processes and the Bank of Urban Transformation Practices – will be presented at this event, which shall be the closing ceremony of the work done by these eight European cities. There will also be speeches from expert speakers related to the project's theme.

The event programme will soon be available on the project website. For the moment, **save the date: 2-3 March 2010, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat!**

Further information on the Seminar will be provided in the NeT-TOPIC area at the URBACT II website:

<http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/net-topic/homepage/>

or please contact:  
[redtrace@l-h.cat](mailto:redtrace@l-h.cat)





# INTERVIEW

Mr. Gérard Perreau-Bezouille  
1st DEPUTY MAYOR  
NANTERRE



**1. What are the key challenges (and the main obstacles) to good metropolitan governance in Île-de-France and Grand Paris?**

A good "governance" of the complex territory of the Île-de-France region seems really complicated. First, there are many territorial levels: the region's cities, the city of Paris, the Syndicat Paris Métropole, the eight departments, the Île-de-France region, and finally the State. Each actor has its own projects and often wants to impose its vision for this territory. One of the characteristics of the Île-de-France region is that a large part of the territory is rural, and is facing a hyper-urbanisation of the capital and its close surroundings. The Syndicat Paris Métropole, created at this level, should provide coherence through debate.

As regards governance, I prefer the concept and principle of democracy, linked to the inhabitants' aspirations, and an ethic, a democracy that is certainly organised but more participative, more direct, preserving different identities, carrying the values of solidarity and sustainable development, orientated towards the 'human' and fomenting a better coexistence.

This is how the city of Nanterre, based on its experience with social housing, the conferences about the city, the "west Parisian workshops", etc., takes part in and drives the debates within the "Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FPLA) for Cohesive Metropolises" network. Last month, we attended the UCLG Congress (United Cities and Local Governments) in Mexico City, in order to share common values between Nanterre's elected representatives and those of the FPLA, to build inclusive cities and cohesive metropolises, and to promote more equitable wealth distribution to popular peripheries.

Thus, the challenge is to turn these multiple and plural voices into a single one that will allow the whole territory to develop coherently and intelligently.

**2. Do the municipalities concerned with urban transformation (and more particularly those concerned with La Défense's enlargement and expansion) have a common territorial project? How do they act together? Is there any vision of territorial planning developed with the participation of the local stakeholders?**

# INTERVIEW

Between 2000 and 2010, within the "EPASA" (Établissement Public d'Aménagement Seine Arche), Nanterre and the other municipalities which constitute or are next to La Défense had a common framework, shared with the State. With this institutional tool, we carried out great urban projects with a sustainable and cohesive vision of Nanterre and the extension of the West Parisian area. It is in this spirit that the "terraces" urban project was carried out, with an innovative vision: to propose a new centrality and the "right to the metropolis for all".

Today, while the State emphasises its financial vision and gives up its previous commitment, by creating a unique institutional structure – the EPADESA (Établissement Public d'Aménagement de la Défense Seine Arche) – the city of Nanterre is about to join the cities of Suresnes and Rueil-Malmaison in the "Communauté d'Agglomération du Mont Valérien", and has also created the SIEP – Syndicat Intercommunal d'Études et de Projets du Territoire des Deux Seine – including the municipalities of Courbevoie, La Garenne-Colombes and Puteaux, in order to work together on the urban project. It is a new step for better work between municipalities, to withstand and to build in an innovative way, using "local intelligence".

The SIEP, chaired by Patrick Jarry, Mayor of Nanterre, aims to combine the efforts of these cities, affirm a common ambition, become a force in urban development proposals for this west Parisian territory, and to finally open up an era of co-elaboration and joint decision-making.

### **3. Can economic competitiveness, the environment and social cohesion in our metropolitan territories be compatible and coherent?**

It is true that visions and projects often differ; this is not an issue of scale or administrative management; without a doubt it is because political choices are confronted. The SIEP comprises five cities from the right political side and one from the left political side, and as such is an excellent example of our common will to raise all points of view on the inhabitants' needs and the territory's specific characteristics, which naturally vary from one city to another, to confront them, to seek support where there is convergence, but without anyone denying or isolating themselves.

For this reason, as locally elected representatives, we must be present in all these working spaces, such as the SIEP and EPADESA – even in a minority capacity – in order to share and

convince others that we need sustainable, equitable economic development, based on solidarity, which is without a doubt the only key to success for a coherent territory at economic, environmental and social level.

### **4. Are there any institutional arrangements between the municipalities concerned by La Défense, beyond the borders and administrative divisions?**

Since 1 July 2010, the EPASA and the EPAD have been joined together to create a unique institutional structure, the EPADESA (Établissement Public d'Aménagement de la Défense Seine Arche). This was imposed by State decree. These two establishments do not share the same history and practices. The EPAD's main objective is the extension of offices towers, often leading to new social and territorial inequalities, whereas we are committed to mixing and interbreeding.

Thus, the EPADESA challenges us to promote significant urban development, giving a specific place to imagination and to action on public spaces, with regard to differences in levels, time and spaces.

# CITY PARTNER PROFILE

## NANTERRE

Nanterre is the sixth largest city in the Île-de-France region. It currently covers 1,220 hectares (320 of which are within the boundary of a National Interest Operation), and has 90,903 inhabitants, 93,735 workers, over 32,000 students and 2,000 researchers and teachers.

Nanterre is a strategic area, due to its geographical position, just beside La Défense (Europe's largest business district). The city contains an old centre, yet boasts strong modern aspects, values of solidarity and a tradition of innovation.

With a rich historical background, as evidenced by its significant archaeological remains, nowadays Nanterre has an urban and architectural heritage that mixes mix well-preserved old buildings with important modern ones (industrial inheritance, Emile Aillaud's towers, the school of architecture, etc.).

The town has numerous cultural benefits, with a wide selection of cultural facilities and strong local fabric (approximately sixty cultural associations, seven social and cultural centres, performing arts companies and artists in the town). Nanterre enjoys major infrastructures that connect it to the metropolis: the motorway network (A14, A86) national roads (RN 13, RN 190, RN 314), the express railway network and links with the main Parisian stations. A planned tram connection will facilitate inter-suburb journeys. However, these infrastructures can also create undesirable noise effects: fragmenting the territory, se-

parating the districts, isolating mono-functional sectors and blocking access to the river.

Nanterre has been continuously under construction since the 1950s, and still has many free spaces on which to develop new projects, such as abandoned industrial areas and derelict infrastructures. This richness, just a stone's throw from the capital, is a strategic asset, but it also creates disagreement with the State, which sees an opportunity to extend the business district of La Défense in order to face up to competition from other European business centres, such as London and Frankfurt. The State would like to develop a financial cluster, involving the construction of new office towers.

From the municipal point of view, the development of La Défense must be reconciled with respect for the territory's identity and with concern for improving the quality of life of its inhabitants and workers. It is a question of bringing together two hitherto conflicting visions for the development of this territory.

As regards metropolitan and national projects that will impact on Nanterre's territory (Grand Paris law, railway projects, etc.), Nanterre is now revising its global project for the town, the objective of which is to strike a balance between local and metropolitan ambition.

Regarding Net-Topic, the main objective is to share the urban experience with other peripheral cities, involving its elected representatives as well as experts, inhabitants and all the actors concerned by the town's construction.

The three main challenges put forward by the City of Nanterre are as follows:

- How can we make the global vision of the city accessible and comprehensible for most people, so that every citizen can be involved in its design and implementation?
- The adoption of new urban practices in the design of urban projects: how can we work with and not dominate, block or be overtaken by them?
- Cohesion between projects involving the outskirts of the town and its metropolis, and between urban, metropolitan, regional and national authorities.



# OTHER NEWS

## NEW PUBLICATION: "URBACT Cities facing the Crisis – Impact and Responses"

All cities have been affected, in one way or another, by the current financial crisis. In this context, URBACT decided to carry out a study about the impact of the crisis and the responses URBACT cities had developed to face the situation. The result of this study is the publication "URBACT Cities facing the Crisis – Impact and Responses".

The study, which is summarised in this final report, consists of two main parts. The first part consists of a survey carried out in the fourth quarter of 2009, which looks at the nature of the recession's impact in different types of cities and the various responses used.

The second part of the study consisted of a series of in-depth case studies of cities, selected to reflect the diversity of impacts and the range of policy responses developed at local level. The aim was to identify lessons and approaches that could be useful for other cities. The case studies were carried out between the spring and summer of 2010 and provide first hand evidence of how quickly, unpredictably and differently the crisis evolved in different European cities.

For further information and to download the document, please visit the URBACT website:

<http://urbact.eu/en/header-main/news-and-events/view-one/urbact-news/?entryId=5008>

## URBACT ANNUAL CONFERENCE, LIEGE

Liege hosted the latest URBACT Annual Conference on 30 November – 1 December 2010. More than 400 people representing URBACT partners, regional, local and national authorities, Local Support Groups and other stakeholders related to urban sustainable development were expected to attend the event.

The conference provided a unique opportunity for participants to exchange experiences, as well as to discuss various challenges relating to urban sustainable development. Participants also had the chance to learn about the different URBACT II projects, which had display stands showing some interim results.

The event opened with a plenary session led by Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Charles Picqué, Minister and President of Government of the Brussels Capital-Region and Josef Postranecky, former Chairman of the URBACT Monitoring Committee.

Interactive thematic workshops were also carried out on innovation, living conditions, metropolitan governance, active inclusion, regeneration of disadvantaged neighbourhoods, reduction of the urban carbon footprint, inclusive growth, integrated approaches to cultural heritage, metropolitan identities beyond borders, co-creation in planning processes, and large historical buildings acting as drivers for city centre regeneration. Summaries of the Workshops will be published on the URBACT II website shortly.

Participants had the opportunity to take part in a "café" format session where people with the same mother tongue discussed their experiences with URBACT projects, the main results and impacts, difficulties and the aspects that should be modified or improved in light of the third call for proposals in late 2011.

The conference also introduced the publication: URBACT Cities facing the Crisis – Impact and Responses and presented the strategies of some European cities.

For more information on the Annual Conference, please visit the URBACT website: <http://urbact.eu/>



# OTHER NEWS

## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR THE UNESCO CANDIDATURE IN SESTO SAN GIOVANNI

Sesto San Giovanni is a city undergoing transformation: from the 20th century factory town to a new multi-functional city, with high quality housing, commercial space and offices, new green areas and public facilities.

The new urban development plan, called Piano di Governo del Territorio (P.G.T.), is the framework for this transformation and it governs regeneration projects on big abandoned industrial areas (over 2 million square metres), close to the city centre. The P.G.T. also promotes the reuse of industrial architecture.

In fact, the city is applying to have the industrial site of Sesto San Giovanni included on the World Heritage List in the "Organically Evolved Landscape" Category. Thus, industrial memory is central to urban development and the city's new identity.

The URBACT Local Support Group (primarily comprising members of the UNESCO project support group, called Comitato di sostegno UNESCO) is reflecting on this complex transitional phase and trying to tackle three issues through the Local Action Plan:

- What is the role of industrial heritage in the new urban model promoted by the P.G.T.? How can the industrial heritage be a real strategic asset for urban development?
- Which functions have to be prioritised in reusing industrial architecture? Public facilities, public services, high functions (museum, library, university, exhibition centre, etc.)? And/or private functions (commercial, tertiary, etc.)?
- The reuse of industrial architectures is expensive, especially for cleaning areas: what kind of financing can be promoted? Public funds, public/private partnership, sponsorship, private investment, etc.?

On 24-25 September last, the City of Sesto San Giovanni held an International Symposium to promote the UNESCO Candidature: "Sesto San Giovanni: a History and a Future. Industrial Heritage for the Whole World".

The third section of the Symposium was dedicated to U.L.S.G. questions, mentioned above, and to some international experiences: Nord-Pas de Calais in France, Gunma in Japan, Le-Chaux-de-Fonds in Switzerland, Soufli in Greece, Pachuca in Mexico, Ruhr-Emscher Park in Germany, and Piombino and Venice in Italy.

The Sesto S. Giovanni Local Action Plan will also study these contributions and international experiences in depth, trying to apply them to the reuse of local industrial heritage.



# WHAT IT IS Net-Topic & Urbact II?

## WHAT IS NeT-TOPIC?

NeT-TOPIC is a Thematic Network within URBACT II, a European exchange and learning programme that enables cities to work together to build solutions to major urban challenges.

NeT-TOPIC is made up of European peripheral cities in transformation, with shared problems including industrial decline, territorial fragmentation and social polarisation. Located close to major cities, they are transforming into more attractive urban areas: focusing on developing their own urban identities, offering a better quality of life, improving citizen integration and social cohesion to fulfil a new role within their metropolitan areas.

One of the biggest challenges faced by these cities is using and promoting new tools and approaches relating to territorial governance and urban planning processes at local, regional and national level, in order to improve urban transformation processes. The network provides these cities with a platform to reflect on changes in the city model which can increase the strategic value of its territory.

NeT-TOPIC's network aims to foster the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices among its partners. The project seeks to enhance the role of peripheral cities in territorial governance and urban planning processes to achieve their desired new city model.

## THE URBACT II PROGRAMME

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal changes. URBACT helps cities to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 181 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants. URBACT is jointly financed by ERDF and the Member States.

## WHAT IS THE AIM OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

This newsletter intends to provide information on the network and its evolution: on implemented and upcoming activities as well as conclusions reached. It will also include other sections such as interviews with relevant stakeholders, city profiles from network partners, and information on issues relevant to the project themes.

## LEAD EXPERT'S NOTE

NeT-TOPIC deals with the transformation of cities belonging to metropolitan areas, adapting them to new demands for uses and activities in the process of post-industrialisation and the new service industry. This is a key process for the current new economy stemming from competitiveness, but also from the internal demands of its urban systems. In the new economic context, cities should be capable of being at the centre of new transformation scenarios. These scenarios are opportunities to establish or expand private, public and mixed investment in cities, in new fields of activity. Urban socio-economic promotion, but also positioning the cities on the map of the new economy, is one of the bases of these key policies on urban transformation. The processes developed from these relationship models between the local and the global can be extended further in the urban scale of peripheral cities in metropolitan contexts, and much more so if we approach the most common spaces, areas and places of transformation. All the partners belonging to our network are engaged in transforming their cities, trying to change from mono-functional to multifunctional cities with new urban identities. Indeed, members of NeT-TOPIC want to share and exchange new findings arising from their own practices of urban transformation.

Fernando Barreiro , *Barcelona*  
*Lead expert of NeT-TOPIC*

# CONTACT & LINKS



**NeT-TOPIC**

## URBACT PROGRAMME

<http://urbact.eu/>

## TRACE NETWORK (EUROPEAN CITIES IN TRANSFORMATION)

<http://www.urbantrace.eu/>

## BRASIL MUNICIPIOS

<http://www.projetoBrasilmunicipios.gov.br/>

## EUKN

<http://www.eukn.org/eu kn/>

## IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

<http://www.idea.gov.uk>

## EUROCITIES

<http://www.eurocities.eu>

## ESPON

<http://www.espon.eu/>

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION - Regional Policy

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm)

## COMMITTEE OF REGIONS

<http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/HomeTemplate.aspx>

## PARTNER CITIES

### L'HOSPITALET CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.l-h.cat/>

### NANTERRE CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.nanterre.fr/>

### SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.salford.gov.uk/>

### Haidari CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.haidari.gr/>

### BARAKALDO CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.barakaldo.org>

### SESTO SAN GIOVANNI CITY COUNCIL

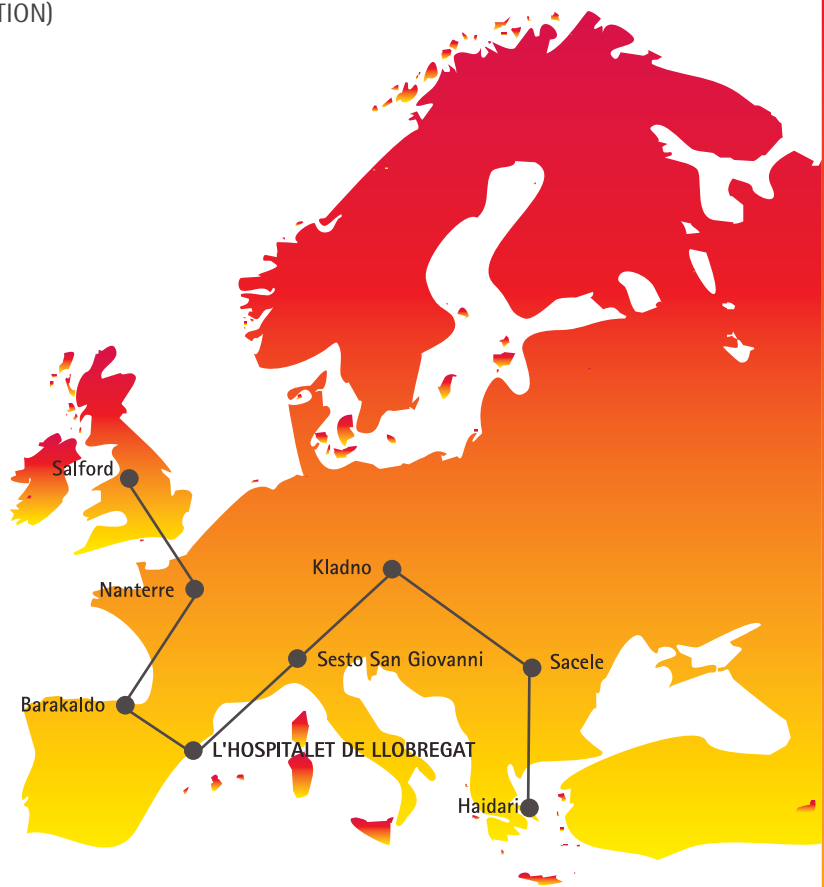
<http://www.sestosg.net/>

### SACELE CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.municipiulsacele.ro/>

### KLADNO CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.mestokladno.cz/>



Ajuntament de L'Hospitalet



MAIRIE DE NANTERRE

Salford City Council



Sacele  
CITY COUNCIL

KLADNO



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