

Kick-off Meeting FIN-URB-ACT

January 21st 2009

Sparkasse Aachen, Münsterplatz



Joined forces in favour of SMEs

– Partnerships for fostering and financing local enterprises

Support structures for the local economy are not only addressed by European and national actors in times of financial crisis but are permanent topics asking for long-term partnerships especially on local level.

In many European cities and also on higher administrative levels various stakeholders are actively supporting their local innovative enterprises and start-ups – especially to ease their access to finance. In some cases these support efforts already became coordinated structures and integrated approaches. But this is by far not praxis in all European cities and there remains strong demand to strengthen the existing offers.

This challenge is the main topic on the international conference “Join forces in favour of SMEs – Partnerships for fostering and financing local enterprises” – which takes part in the context of the official kick-off of the European network FIN-URB-ACT. European, regional and local key actors with political, administrative and economic background come together to jointly discuss strategies and measures to strengthen the existing potentials of the innovative enterprises and to improve their access to financial sources. Besides high representatives from the European Commission and the European Parliament the conference gathers stakeholders from ministries, administrative bodies, chambers, financial institutions, and economic development agencies.

The European network “FIN-URB-ACT – Integrated urban actions for fostering and financing innovative economies and SMEs” will – within a partnership of 11 European cities – elaborate strategies during the next 2 ½ years on how to facilitate and foster access to finance for innovative SMEs and start-ups. Special focus will be laid on the role the cities might take over in this framework. FIN-URB-ACT is financially supported by the EU programme URBACT.



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FIN-URB-ACT

Integrated Urban Actions for Fostering and Financing
Innovative Economies and SMEs

13.30

Registration of participants / Reception



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**Sparkasse
Aachen**

14.00

Welcome

- Dr. Jürgen Linden, Lord Mayor of Aachen
- Dr. Jochen Bräutigam, Sparkasse Aachen
- Jean-Loup Drubigny, Director of the URBACT II Secretariat, Paris
- Brigitte Helff, Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs

14.45

Fostering and financing innovative economies and SMEs by integrated actions

- FIN-URB-ACT – European partnership for the improvement of urban SME support
Thomas Fiedler, City of Aachen / Patrick Fourquette, URBACT Lead Expert
- Principles for financing and supporting innovative SMEs and urban economies
Havva Coskun, AGIT – Economic Development Agency of the Aachen Region
- The GründerRegion Aachen – a model for partnership based business promotion
Michael Bayer, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Aachen

16.00

Coffee Break

16.30

Local partnerships for financing and supporting innovative SMEs

Introductory statement

- Dr. Alexander Ferstl, DG Regio, European Commission

Panel discussion

- Jean-Marie Beaupuy, Chair of the Urban Housing Intergroup, European Parliament
- Dr. Alexander Ferstl, DG Regio, European Commission
- Dr. Jens Baganz, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy NRW
- Gordon McLaren, Department for European Structural Funds, East Scotland European Partnership
- Giuseppe Panebianco, Department for Local Development, Training and Employment of the City of Rome
- Manfred Bausch, Regio Aachen e.V.
- Fiona Joyce, Deputy Director, European Savings Banks Group

18.00

Common reception

18.30

Dinner

Kick-off Meeting FIN-URB-ACT

January 22 and 23 2009



FIN-URB-ACT

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Innovative Economies and SMEs



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Thursday, 22 January 2009

09h00

Partnership with Managing Authorities

Introduction in the issue and first discussions with Managing Authorities
Presentation of practical examples from the LAP
Discussion and validation of the work plan

12h00

Lunch break

13h00

Parallel working group sessions

- Working group “Support for small scale projects”: introduction in the topic and agreement on the main working structure and issues to be tackled
- Working Group “Support for innovative/high tech projects”: presentation of the support system and partnership of Aachen and reflection with partners

16h00

Coffee break

16h30

Revision of the two work groups and outlook

17h00

Management and Coordination FIN-URB-ACT

Financial management and reporting procedure
Communication strategy

18h30

City Tour

20h00

Common Dinner

Friday, 23 January 2009

9h30

Promoting innovative economy in the Aachen Region

Study visit to the Technology Centre Aachen

11h30

Lunch Break

13h00

Visit of the museum Ludwig Forum Aachen