



URBACT II

and Regions for Economic Change

The “Fast Track Option” and Conclusions for Networks

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Kick-off Meeting of the HerO network (Fast Track)
30th June 2008 - Regensburg



Content

1. Regions for Economic Change and the Fast Track Option: Principles and Objectives
2. The URBACT II Programme and “Thematic Networks with Fast Track Label”
3. Conclusions for the “HerO” network



Regions for Economic Change Programmes

- Implemented within the two major networking programmes for 2007-2013
 - Interregional cooperation (Interreg IVC)
 - Urban development network programme (URBACT II)
- Total budget of 375 m€



Regions for Economic Change Elements

Core objectives:

Addressing common issues together and

Creating a stronger link between exchange of good practices and mainstream funding programmes

Communication (2006) 675 of 8/11/2006

Four key elements:

- **Thematic approach (30 themes)**
- **Two-way Bridge with mainstream Operational Programmes**
- **Communication**
- 'Fast track' option (Commission support)



Regions for Economic Change Thematic Approach

30 Themes **overall, of which**

7 "urban" themes **to be treated within** URBACT II:

1. Making healthy communities
2. Integrated policies on urban transport
3. Developing sustainable and energy-efficient housing stock
4. Integrating marginalised youth
5. Managing migration and facilitating social integration
6. **Achieving sustainable urban development**
7. Re-using brownfield and waste disposal sites

- Description of themes ("Fiches thématiques"):

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochang/themes_en.cfm?nmenu=3



The Two-way Bridge How does the « Fast Track » work?

Links with mainstream Operational Programmes

Elements:

- **Identify priorities for networking linked to Operational Programmes (OPs)**
- **Managing Authorities participating in networks**
- **Working methods – capitalize on experience - Action Plans**
- **Deliver action plans through mainstream OPs**



Communication Conferences



2 thematic conferences & 2 annual RFEC Conferences (2006 - 2008)

- Over 2000 participants
- 36 thematic workshops
- exchanges with more than 130 Experts, regional and local authorities, and project promoters on relevant themes

Third annual RFEC Conference **Spring 2009**

See « events » on the Website.



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Communication RegioStars Awards

RegioStars 2008 - 26 Finalists - 5 Winners



2009 Categories:

- 1) Research, Technological Development and Innovation.
- 2) Adaptation to or mitigation of climate change.
- 3) Radio or television spot or programme that highlights the contribution of Cohesion Policy

RegioStars 2009 – Deadline **15 July 2008**

The screenshot shows the European Commission Regional Policy website. The header features the European Union flag and the text 'EUROPEAN COMMISSION REGIONAL POLICY'. Below the header is a navigation bar with 'Regional Policy - Inforegio' and a language dropdown set to 'English'. The main content area is titled 'Regions for economic change' with the subtitle 'Exchanging good practice between Europe's regions'. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with items: Home, Documents, FAQ, Themes and Networks, RegioStars awards, Case Studies (highlighted), Events, and Links. Below the menu is a circular image of a conference. The main text area is titled 'Regional Innovation Projects: Case Studies' and contains the following text: 'In order to encourage exchanges of experience in the area of innovation, regions can find here case studies of projects co-financed under Objectives 1 and 2 of regional policy, 2000-2006. These case studies, in English or in French, present the objectives and activities of the projects, the strategic context, the innovative aspects, partnership, obstacles in terms of design or implementation, results and impacts.' It also mentions that summaries of some projects have been published in a brochure titled 'Examples of Regional Innovative Projects'. Below this, it states 'The case studies are organised by theme:' followed by three bullet points: 'Knowledge transfer and technological innovation', 'Information Society', and 'Innovation for sustainable development'. On the right side, there are logos for INTERREG IVC, INTERREG III C, URB ACT, Lisbon Monitoring Platform, and EGTC.

The screenshot shows the European Commission Regional Policy website. The header features the European Union flag and the text 'EUROPEAN COMMISSION REGIONAL POLICY'. The main content area is titled 'Communication Website' and contains the following text: 'A wealth of information :'. Below this is a list of items: 'Important documents', 'FAQ', 'Themes and Networks', 'RegioStars Awards', 'Case Studies', 'Events', and 'Links'.



Fast Track Networks **How are the Fast Track Networks chosen? (Overview)**

Calls for projects by programme secretariats => First calls already closed in January and February 2008

Transmission of all project relevant applications to Commission and Member States – **parallel process**

Commission proposed participation in some of the projects as 'fast track' – based on 4 objectives

Decision by Programme Monitoring Committees – April 2008

Next calls in **Autumn 2008** (Interreg IV C) and **2010** (URBA CT II)



Fast Track Networks **The role of the Commission in the « Fast Track »**

Commission support for networks under the 'fast track' option :

Active participation of relevant DGs

Provide guidance and expertise on working methods, definition of outcomes; promotion of peer review, dissemination, transparency...

Provide information on the topic (studies, policy documents, past and forthcoming events...

Provide assistance, for instance in creating links with

- Managing Authorities
- Other networks and institutions (source of information)



Pilot Fast Track Networks

Pilot actions to test the Fast Track approach

Financed under INTERREG IIIC and URBA CT (2000-2006)

- C.L.O.E. (Clusters linked over Europe)
- Phase I of M.I.L.E. (Managing migration and Integration at Local level) and URBA MECO (Creating competitiveness & social cohesion in deprived urban areas)

First results presented at the 2008 Annual RFEC Conference



Lessons learned from “C.L.O.E.”



- An intense process – 10 months
- Established deeper relationships (MoU best practice)
- “Steering committee” has proved invaluable
 - fostered relational capital
 - establish and check benchmarks
 - culture of peer review.
- The lead partner is required to perform more demanding activities.
- The role and commitment of the Commission was appreciated.
- Next steps ...Actions plans the work to complete.

<http://www.clusteforum.org/>



Lessons learned from « MILE » and « URBAMECO »

- New partnerships and links
 - Connecting local, regional and European level
 - New co-operation MAs and cities positive
 - Link between co-operation programmes and OPs
- Elaboration of Local Action Plans appreciated
- Importance of permanent expert assistance
- Timing: Deadlines, setting up partnerships, OPs, financially...

<http://www.urbact.eu/mile> - <http://www.urbact.eu/urbameco>



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URBACT II: High interest in the Fast Track Option

- **Seven Regions for Economic Change themes** included in URBACT II
- 2007: Approval of two Pilot Fast Track Networks (MILE, URBAMECO)
- **35** out of 92 applications for Thematic networks declared their interest

| RfEC Theme | All applications | Eligible projects |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Healthy communities | 3 | 2 |
| 2. Integrated policies on urban transport | 3 | 3 |
| 3. Sustainable & energy efficient housing stock | 2 | 1 |
| 4. Marginalised youth | 2 | 2 |
| 5. Managing migration | 5 | 1 |
| 6. Sustainable urban development | 18 | 14 |
| 7. Brownfields & waste disposal sites | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 35 | 25 |



The „Labelling Process“

- In parallel to the quality assessment of the URBACT Managing Authority, the Commission started (parallel) **labelling process**.
- Commission Services: DG Regional Policy + other interested DGs
- Theme-based « Inter-service meetings » and evaluation of all applications based on **assessment questions** (web)
- Four main sections:
 - Regions for Economic Change & relevance for Cohesion Policy
 - Wider coverage and exchange of experience
 - 2-way bridge
 - Transparency and communications
- **Recommendations** from Commission Services



The „Labelling Process“

| RfEC Theme | Eligible projects with FT interest | MC decision on funding | Labelled by COM |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Healthy communities | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 2. Integrated policies on urban transport | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 3. Sustainable & energy efficient housing stock | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. Marginalised youth | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. Managing migration | 1+1**) | 2 | 2 |
| 6. Sustainable urban development | 14+1**) | 6 | 4 |
| 7. Brownfields & waste disposal sites | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 25+2**) | 11 | 7 |

**) Pilot Fast Track Network



Outcome: Thematic Networks with Fast Track Label

| RfEC Theme | Thematic Networks with Fast Track Label |
|---|---|
| 1. Healthy communities | Building Healthy Communities |
| 2. Integrated policies on urban transport | - |
| 3. Sustainable & energy efficient housing stock | - |
| 4. Marginalised youth | - |
| 5. Managing migration | Open Cities MILE**) |
| 6. Sustainable urban development | UNIC HerO RegGov URBAMECO**) |
| 7. Brownfields & waste disposal sites | - |

**) Pilot Fast Track Network



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Conclusions for the HerO network

Officially labelled as « Fast Track » by the European Commission

Main elements of the RFEC initiative need to be taken on board:

- Two-way-bridge: **All** Managing Authorities of the involved cities need to be part of the network – **Implementation** of concrete actions on the basis of Local Action Plans.
- Commission support: Commission Services will participate in the meetings and provide expertise and support.
- Communication: The network will be in the European spotlight, and presented EU-wide (conferences, web etc.)



Conclusions for the HerO network

Recommendations from Commission Services to be included when writing the final application form for phase II (Meeting with Lead Partner of 5th June 2008).

Commission is part of the network and will participate at its own costs.

Regular contact is essential.



URBACT II Participation so far

Thematic Networks

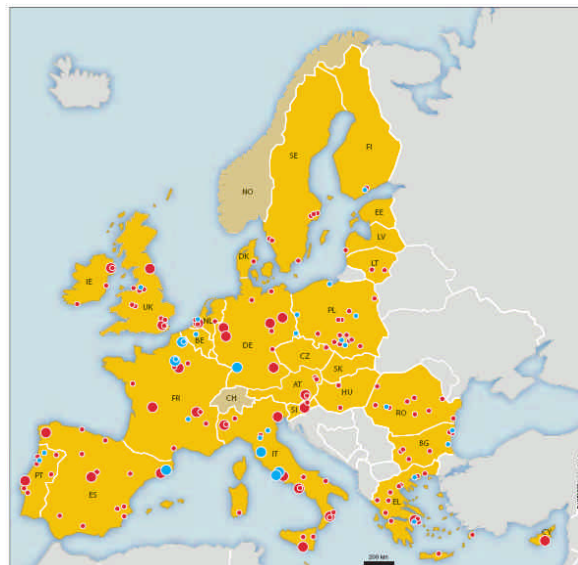
● Lead Partner

● Partner

Working Groups

● Lead Partner

● Partner





Commission involvement

| Network (Fast Track) | Involved Commission Services |
|---|---|
| HerO – Heritage as Opportunity (TN 81) | DG Regional Policy (lead) DG Education and Culture DG Environment |

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http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/