



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
REGIONAL POLICY

# **URBACT II and Regions for Economic Change**

Expectations and support from the European Commission  
within the framework of the Fast Track Option

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## Regions for Economic Change – Fast Track Networks

RfEC - Core objectives:

**Addressing common issues together**

and

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

FTN - Key elements:

- **Two-way bridge with mainstream Operational Programmes**
- **Commission participation and support**
- **Communication and dissemination**



## What does this mean for the HerO network?

The **main principles and elements** of the RfEC Initiative and the Fast Track Option need to be taken on board:

1. Two-way bridge

Strong links with mainstream Operational Programmes (OP)

- The FTN should contribute to the implementation of the OP
- The MA should take the initiatives of the FTN into consideration when implementing the OP



## → **The Two-way bridge**

Main elements and working methods (1):

- **All** Managing Authorities (MA) of the partner cities need to be part of the FTN
  - » Commission support if necessary
  - » MAs are advised to participate in network meetings and activities
- Identify the **converging priorities** of the FTN and the OP and identify **concrete actions in the city** to implement the OP
  - » Good knowledge of OP is advisable
  - » Close contact with MA / Intermediate Body
  - » Countercheck and coordinate with implementation of relating OPs (national/sectoral/ESF/CF)



## → **The Two-way bridge**

Main elements and working methods (2):

- Work on the basis of **Local Action Plans** (LAPs)
  - » Detailed roadmap of actions to be taken
  - » Set up LAP as early as possible in the implementation phase in close cooperation with MA / Intermediate Body
  - » Implement LAP during (and after) the project phase through the mainstream OPs
- Capitalise on **experience**
  - » Know your needs and strengths (help from **and** for partners)
  - » Peer review of LAPs
    - Countercheck other partners' LAPs (and OPs)
    - Commission support (i.e. summaries of OPs in EN on website)



## What does this mean for the HerO network?

### 2. Commission support

Relevant Commission Services will **participate** in the meetings (on their own costs) and **provide expertise and support**

- Directorate-General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO) – lead
- Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC)
- Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV)



## → **Commission support for FTN**

- Establish **regular contacts**
- Provide **guidance and expertise**
  - » Working methods
  - » Definition of outcomes
  - » Promotion of peer review
  - » Provide contacts (within DG REGIO, to other DGs)
- Provide **information** on the topic
  - » Studies
  - » Policy documents
  - » Past and forthcoming events
  - » Provide contacts to other networks and institutions (sources of information)
- Help with communication and dissemination ...



## What does this mean for the HerO network?

### 3. Communication and dissemination

Within the FTN **and** outside of the FTN

- **Transparency**
  - » Need to share information already at an early stage in order to learn from each other
  - » Produce LAP, outcomes and products not only in the end!
- Capitalise **experience** and **good practices**
  - » How to bring good practices and ideas into action through mainstream OPs?
  - » Present experiences in a very practical and transferrable way
  - » Avoid abstract descriptions, focus the exchange on actions
- FTNs will be given **more visibility** on European level
  - » EU-wide presentation (conferences, events, websites etc.)





→ **Events**



- **EU events**
  - » 2008 OPEN DAYS (6-9 October 2008):  
Presentation of the HerO FTN in workshop on 8 October 2008
  - » 2009 RfEC Annual Conference (16/17 February 2009) – RegioStar Award
- **FTN events**
  - » Make your FTN participation visible
    - Public conferences or seminars with the involvement of local, regional or even national stakeholders
    - Public hearings of presentation sessions for awareness raising
  - » Website calendar planned for all public FTN events
- **Profit yourself from the FTN and let others profit from your experience!**



## → **Communication websites**

- RfEC website with information on
  - » Important documents
  - » Frequently asked questions
  - » Themes and Networks
  - » Events, conferences ( → RfEC Conference proceedings 2008)
  - » RegioStars Awards ( → Publication 2008)
  - » Case studies ( → Case study manual, June 2008)
  - » Links
  
- Special FTN website is planned
  - » Links on other Commission websites possible



## Commission involvement and contacts

Network (Fast Track)	Involved Commission Services
<b>HerO – Heritage as Opportunity</b>	DG Regional Policy (lead) DG Education and Culture DG Environment

Commission contacts:

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