

Final Conference of the « EGTC » URBACT project

6-7 May 2010, Esztergom (Hungary)

The cross-border agglomeration partners of the “EGTC” project (Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations), co-financed by the URBACT II programme, aim to exchange on methods and tools to improve their governance, including the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation. During the last two years, they have exchanged on internal governance issues and the means to involve civil society, assessing their needs, identifying best practices and the concrete measures they would develop to improve their governance: the Local and European Action Plans are the main outputs of the project. On 6 May, the partners will deliver the conclusions they have come to at the end of the “EGTC” URBACT project, and will discuss, on 7 May, the needs and opportunities to pursue the European sharing of experiences.

THURSDAY 6 MAY afternoon - Presentation of the final results of the “EGTC” URBACT project

Moderation: Christian LAMOUR, Project Lead expert

13:30 Registration

14:00 **Welcome and introduction**

- Tamás MEGGYES, Mayor of Esztergom, Ister-Granum EGTC
- Dr. Hans-Günther CLEV, Director General, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, Lead Partner of the “EGTC” URBACT project

14:25 **The Local Action Plans to improve project partners’ cross-border governance [1/2]**

- István FERENCSEK, Executive director of the Ister Granum Euroregion Development Agency - Ister-Granum EGTC (Hungary/Slovakia)
- Margarida PIZARRO, Technician of the City of Chaves - Eurocidade Chaves-Verim (Portugal/Spain)
- Jean-Baptiste SCHIBER, Responsible for the Eurodistrict and Cross-border networks at the Urban Community of Strasbourg - Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau (France/Germany)

15:30 Coffee break

15:50 **The Local Action Plans to improve project partners’ cross-border governance [2/2]**

- Simon JODOGNE, Director of the Direction Euro-métropole and European partnerships, Lille Metropole - Eurometropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai (France/Belgium)
- Sören BOLLMANN, Project manager for the agglomeration Frankfurt(Oder)-Slubice (Germany/Poland)
- Frédéric DUVINAGE, Director, Trinational Eurodistrict Basel (Switzerland/France/Germany)

17:00 **A European Action Plan to bring-up cross-border agglomerations' interests to the European level**, Dr. Hans-Günther CLEV, Director General, MOT

17:30 **Conclusions**, Christian LAMOUR, Project Lead expert

FRIDAY 7 MAY morning - Identification of future options and opportunities based on the results of the "EGTC" URBACT project

Moderation: Dr. Hans-Günther CLEV, Director General, MOT

8:30 Registration

9:00 **Welcome and introduction**, Ján ORAVEC, Mayor of Štúrovo, Tamás MEGGYES, Mayor of Esztergom for the Ister-Granum EGTC

9:15 **Presentation of the project partners' expectations to pursue and deepen the exchanges within the "EGTC" URBACT project**, Dr. Hans-Günther CLEV, Director General, MOT

9:25 **Opening of the initiative to other cross-border territories in Europe**

- Ernests LIBIETIS, Head of development and project department Valga-Valka (Estonia/Latvia)
- Nuno ALMEIDA, Head of the strategic cooperation unit, CCDRN, Agrupamento Europeo de Cooperacao territorial Galicia – Norte de Portugal (Portugal/Spain) – to be confirmed
- Martin GUILLERMO RAMIREZ, Secretary General, AEBR

10:25 **Cross-border governance and European territorial cohesion**

- José Antonio RUIZ DE CASAS, Territorial Cooperation Unit, DG REGIO, European Commission

10:40 **Links with the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation**

- Alfonso ALCOLEA MARTINEZ, Committee of the Regions

10:55 **Challenges of cross-border cooperation in Hungary**

- Jenő HAMORY, Head of department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economic Relations Department, Hungary

11:10 Coffee break

11:30 **Final roundtable with the project partners**

12:10 **Synthesis of the morning session: needs and opportunities for exchanges**

- Dr. Hans-Günther CLEV, Director General, MOT

12:20 **Conclusions**, Tamás MEGGYES, Mayor of Esztergom

12:30 Lunch

13:30 **Site visit: guiding tour of Esztergom-Štúrovo**

15:00 **Bus departure to Budapest airport**