

## *Seminar “Involvement of civil society within cross-border agglomerations”*

**Thursday 11 February 2010, Tournai, Belgium**

The partners of the “EGTC” project (Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations)<sup>1</sup>, co-financed by the URBACT II programme, aim to exchange on methods and tools to improve the governance of their cross-border conurbations, including the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation instrument. After having discussed internal governance issues during a first seminar in March 2009 in Chaves (Portugal), they will discuss in Lille the means to involve civil society within cross-border conurbations.

Today, **more than a third of the European citizens live in border areas.**

The integration process of the EU has facilitated the emergence of functional urban areas cross-cutting state borders, i.e. cross-border conurbations, which face specific challenges related to the management of **cross-border flows** (goods, capital, information and workers), leading to **specific problems** and new **potentialities** of development.

The appropriate response to such challenges lay down on the development of new systems of governance aiming to conduct policies at a cross-border scale.

With the **absence of a cross-border elected government**, such governance systems, seeking **effectiveness**, must also take into consideration the requirements of **transparency and legitimacy**, particularly by promoting strategies favoring the **involvement of civil society**.

Indeed, the risk of a gap between citizens belonging to different national democracies, the public authorities involved in the cross-border co-operation and the governance structure is present.

The seminar will enable the participants to discuss key issues common to all cross-border conurbations in Europe:

- How can public authorities promote a popular mobilisation in cross-border conurbations? (cf. workshop 1).
- How can media be used to facilitate a greater visibility and a common identity for cross-border conurbations? (cf. workshop 2).
- Which are the possible levels of participative democracy to be developed at a cross-border scale? (cf. roundtable).

This seminar will enable the participants to exchange experiences, present good practices, debate on the feasibility and the transferability of urban public policies favouring a greater sense of community at a cross-border scale and deliver common conclusions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Lille Metropole Urban Community (France/Belgium), Francfort (O)/Slubice conurbation (Germany/Poland), Eurocidade Chaves-Verín (Portugal/Spain), Ister-Granum EGTC (Hungary/Slovakia), Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau (France/Germany), and Trinational Eurodistrict Basel (Switzerland/Germany/France).

## AGENDA

Seminar in Tournai, 11 February 2010

- 8:30-9:00** Registration
- 9:00-9:30** Welcome and introduction  
*Patrick Peugeot, President of the Forum of the Eurometropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai*  
*Dr. Hans-Günther Clev, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, Lead Partner*
- 9:30-11:00** **WORKSHOP 1:** Cross-border projects building-up popular mobilisation  
“Framing the cross-border daily life”  
*Pascale Simon-Studer, Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau*  
*Marita Lorenzo, Eurocidade Chaves-Verín*  
*Dr. István Ferencsik, Ister-Granum EGTC*  
*Jean-Pierre Ruchot, Pôle Emploi*
- 11:00-11:30** Coffee break
- 11:30-13:00** **WORKSHOP 2:** Cross-border Media and virtual community  
“Building-up a cross-border identity”  
*Dr. Frédéric Duvinage, Trinational Eurodistrict Basel*  
*Kai Littmann : « Journal des deux rives »*  
*Lars Whitt, Øresund Committee (SV/DK)*

**1:00-2:00** Lunch

**2:00-3:00** **SITE VISIT**

- 3:15-5:00** **WORKSHOP 3:** Face to face participative democracy in cross-border agglomerations  
“Involving civil society in cross-border public policies”  
*Philippe Luyten, vice-president of the Cross-border forum of the Eurométropole Lille-Kortrijk- Tournai*  
*Sören Bollmann, Frankfurt (O)-Slubice*  
*István Ferencsik, Ister-Granum EGTC*  
*Marita Lorenzo, Eurocidade Chaves-Verín*  
*Dr. Frédéric Duvinage, Trinational Eurodistrict Basel*
- 5:00-5:30** Closing session  
*Christian Lamour, Lead expert*  
*Dr. Hans-Günther Clev, General director of MOT, lead partner*