

Cities and Managing Authorities – A Pathway to Partnership

Invitation to the Workshop of the European Network FIN-URB-ACT

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2011

Location: Brussels

Premises: Regional Representative Office of North Rhine – Westphalia
Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels

Dear Sir or Madam,

The European URBACT funded project “FIN-URB-ACT - Integrated urban actions for fostering and financing innovative economies and SMEs” is running a network of 11 European cities – elaborating strategies on how to facilitate and foster the access to finance for innovative SMEs and start-ups. Within this network, special focus was put on the relationships between cities and Managing Authorities and on the role that cities can take to ease structures and fill missing links.

As SME support is asking for strong vertical teamwork between cities and Managing Authorities of the EU Structural Fund Programmes, it needs to be assured that those financial instruments and sources on higher level can be brought efficiently to local SME.

However there is a varied bunch of reasons, why cooperation with Managing Authorities and cities is mostly developed quite weak. In practices, SME support scheme measures are generally not designed nor decided at local level. They are included in programmes managed at a regional or even national administrative level and cities at local level are not involved in implementing them. Moreover, the relationship between cities and Managing Authorities is traditionally rather unusual.

Since the beginning of the project in 2008, FIN-URB-ACT was able to successfully establish those relationships in several cases. Thus we cordially invite you to participate the upcoming work meeting on **9 February 2011 at the Regional Representative Office of North-Rhine Westphalia in Brussels**. The meeting serves as platform to present and exchange the experience about the achieved tandems between cities and their Managing Authorities to discuss the various forms of cooperation and the way to approach each other. Moreover, the results will be commonly discussed with representatives from the European Parliament and the European Commission and should serve as a common reflection on the discussion for the future cohesion policy.

Yours faithfully,

Jonas Scholze
(Project Coordinator)

Agenda 9 February

09h00 registration of participants

09h30 welcome address

Thomas Hissel, *FIN-URB-ACT Lead Partner, City of Aachen*

Jean Loup Drubigny, *Head of URBACT Secretariat, Paris*

09h45 thematic Introduction, Pauline Geoghegane, URBACT Thematic Expert

10h15 discussion and presentation on cooperation examples and experiences from the FIN-URB-ACT network between cities and Managing Authorities

- Aveiro, André Cester Costa, *Municipality of Aveiro*
- Aachen, Luise Clemens, *Municipality of Aachen*
- Edinburgh, Charlie Shanlin, *Municipality of Edinburgh*
- Galati, Costel Hanta, *Municipality of Galati*
- Gliwice, Katarzyna Kobierska, *Municipality of Gliwice*
- Leipzig, Brigitte Brück, *Municipality of Leipzig*
- Rom, Giuseppe Panebianco, *Municipality of Rome*

Comments by Patrick Fourquette, *FIN-URB-ACT Lead Expert*

12h30 lunch break

13h45 key speaker: Wilco van Kalkeren, Province of Gelderland

14h00 podium discussion:

„Cities and Managing Authorities a Pathway to Partnership”

Moderation: Lothar Blatt, (German Savings Bank Association)

Panel:

Sabine Verheyen, *Member of the European Parliament, EPP*

Jean Loup Drubigny, *Head of URBACT Secretary*

Alexander Ferstl, *European Commission, GD REGIO*

Ana Abrunhosa, *Management Board of the Operational Program Portugal*

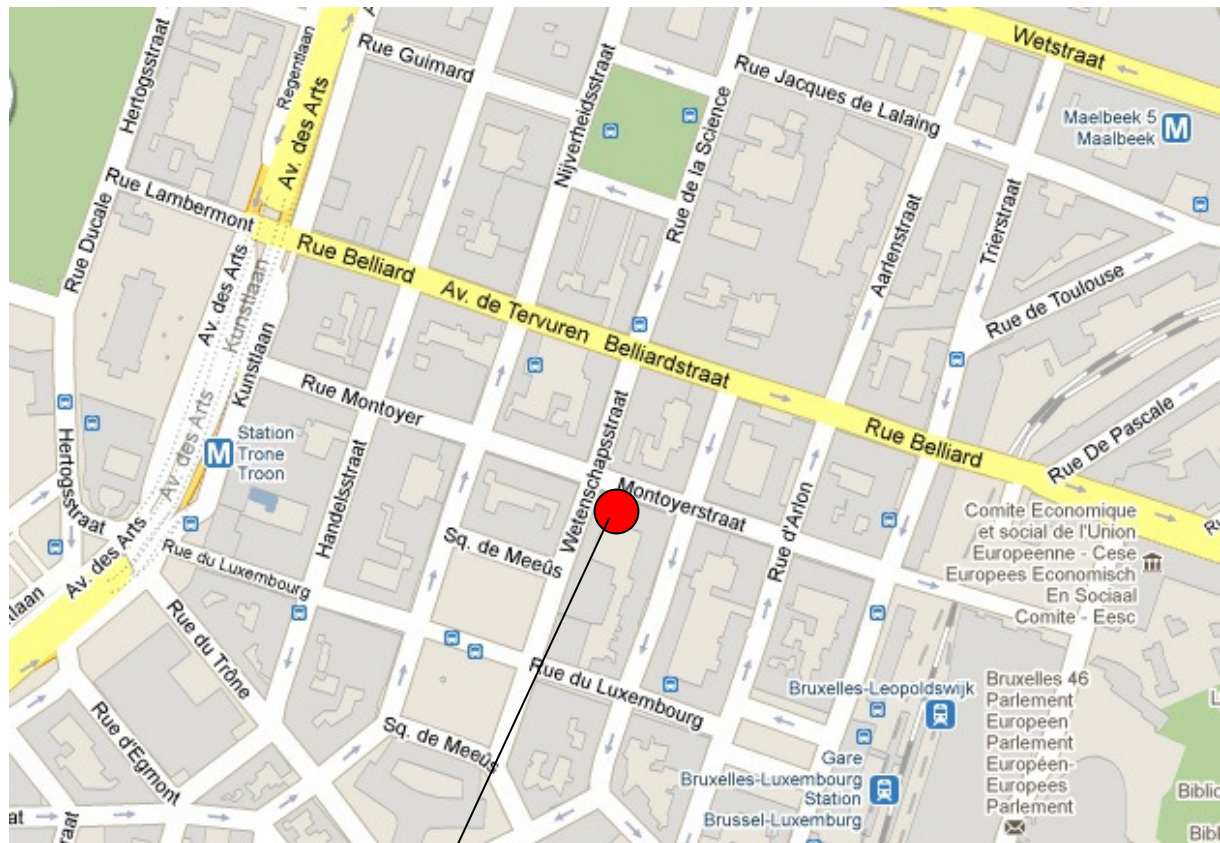
Luminita Mihailov, *Director of the Regional Development Agency for the South East of Romania, MA for the ROP*

Giuseppe Panebianco, *City of Rome*

15h00 conclusions: Christian Huttenloher, Secretary General, German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development

15h15 get together

How to get there:



Brussels Representative Office North Rhine- Westphalia, Rue Montoyer 47

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