



"Regions, Cities, Neighbourhoods - strong Partners"

# REGGOV

## Final Conference – Documentation

June 2011



**European Union**  
European Regional Development Fund



Connecting cities  
Building successes



The URBACT network RegGov – Regional Governance of Sustainable Integrated Development of Deprived Urban Areas held its Final Conference in the German Lead Partner city of Duisburg on 12 May 2011.

More than 150 participants attended the Final Conference of the RegGov network in the Lead Partner city of Duisburg (DE) on 12 May 2011. Organised in the spectacular venue of the Landscape Park Duisburg-North, an important conversion project of former steelworks into a landscape park, the achieved successes, results and outcomes of the work have been presented and discussed.

Integrated approaches to the development of deprived urban neighbourhoods have proved to be successful in many of the old EU Member states over the last decades. However, good practice examples of how to develop, implement and fund such policies are rarely known at a wider European level. Crucial factors for the success of such policies are efficient cooperation and a high level of trust between cities and their regional authorities.

The RegGov Network aimed to make these practical experiences accessible to all partners and help them develop and implement new integrated strategies for a sustainable development at neighbourhood level.



*Exchange at the conference*



*RegGov dissemination of outputs*



*Audience at the conference*

The URBACT Fast Track Network “RegGov – Regional Governance of Sustainable Integrated Development of Deprived Urban Areas” has presented its exchange and learning activities.

Nine partners from eight countries (Duisburg (DE), Halandri (GR), Köbanya (HU), Nijmegen (NL), Nyiregyhaza (HU), Ruda Slaska (PL), Satu Mare (RO), Siracusa (IT) and Södertälje (SE)) have been working relentlessly for three years looking for joint, effective and sustainable solutions to integrated strategies for deprived urban neighbourhoods.

High-ranking representatives from the European Commission, the URBACT Secretariat, the associated Managing Authorities and City representatives discussed questions of cooperation and governance for deprived neighbourhoods in the context of integrated sustainable neighbourhood development and commented Ten Recommendations related to “Challenges and Conditions for Good Multi-Level Governance”.

The conference focused on the network results presented in the Final Report and experiences regarding the integrated development of Local Action Plans. Co-operation and coordination between national/regional institutions, urban key players and local stakeholders within Local Support Groups in the Partner Cities have been

stressed as pivotal in the success of long-term and sustainable neighbourhood development. Facilitated by Martin Linne, the head of the Department for Urban Development and Project Management of the City of Duisburg, and Dr. Petra Potz, the Lead Expert of the RegGov network, the cities, managing authorities and experts discussed the results and further perspectives in the framework of integrated urban development policies at European level.

### Introductory Statements

Mr. Michael Ralph, Political Adviser to the Director-General of the Directorate General Regional Policy of the European Commission emphasized the importance of the urban dimension in European and national policy.

Holistic approaches are increasingly needed to tackle the challenges related to high unemployment, environment, migration, social exclusion, poverty, crime, and demographic change. Embedding neighbourhood actions in city-wide schemes can provide added value. It creates political support and provides more information on the specificities of the environment promoting synergies which build on local potential.



*Michael Ralph, DG Regio*

Cooperation of cities with private actors can create real added value in terms of job creation and funding partnerships. Mr Ralph mentioned two examples from the RegGov case studies, the microcredits for small enterprises and business start-ups in Duisburg (DE) and the Telge company, a public-private joint venture in Södertälje (SE) providing jobs for unemployed people in deprived neighbourhoods.

“We see a real need for good links between businesses, enterprise associations, venture capitalists, training establishments, higher education, research institutions, city authorities, trade unions, and the local community”.

From the Fifth Cohesion Report published at the end of 2010 Mr Ralph concluded to pay special attention to four issues:

- » “A clear urban dimension of Europe 2020 thematic priorities within cohesion policy
- » An adequate role of cities and urban stakeholders in delivering our programmes
- » A clear budget for these actions
- » A continuation of our cooperation and exchange activities for cities”.

Mr. Karl Jasper, Deputy Head of the Department for Integrated Urban Development of the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Building, Housing and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (MWEBWV) stressed the evidence from the RegGov results that all cities in the European network have a benefit from this kind of exchange and cooperation. Integrated development is needed all over Europe, not only in the bigger cities, but also in medium-sized and smaller cities.



*Karl Jasper, MWEBWV*

The basis has been laid by URBAN already from the 1990s. The Leipzig Charter and the Toledo Declaration have confirmed and further developed the conviction that complex problems cannot be tackled by monodimensional action and reflection. Multi-disciplinary and interdepartmental activities are a necessary condition of the integrated approach. This has been introduced in the North Rhine-Westphalian urban areas, like all over Ger-

many, within the Socially Integrative City programme. The programme has always been seen as a “learning programme” able to tackle also the unexpected elements.

The experiences of the URBAN and the Socially Integrative City approaches have demonstrated how to co-produce neighbourhood development together with the residents counteracting the downward spiral of deprived urban areas and picking up new ideas and suggestions. “We will continue to bring in our experiences into the Europe-wide discussion process in order to stress the policy in our cities and regions as an essential contribution to European policies”.

Mr Jean-Loup Drubigny, Director of the URBACT Secretariat in Paris, gave some insights in the latest URBACT II experiences and the mid-term evaluation. He reminded two main objectives of URBACT: to exchange among European cities and to foster the integrated approach.



*Jean-Loup Drubigny, URBACT Secretariat*

The improvements of reprogramming for the 3<sup>rd</sup> call are concerning an increasing support of the quality of the Local Action Plans and the work on a better partnership at local level with an increasing support for the Local Support Groups. The work on the improvement of partnerships between cities and Managing Authorities is still another aspect where Mr Drubigny stressed North Rhine-Westphalia as a very experienced partner. NRW should be involved into the reflection on pilot ways of working in this crucial discussion at the end of one funding period and the preparation of the next funding period.

## The Local Action Plan Launch Event

The Local Action Plan Launch Event was an impressive ceremony – offering the Mayors and representatives of the Partner Cities an opportunity to present their city and the Local Action Plans elaborated within RegGov together with Michael Ralph, Political Adviser to the Director-General of the Directorate General Regional Policy of the European Commission, and Karl Jasper, Deputy Head of the Department for Integrated Urban Development of the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Building, Housing and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The session was also organised as a chance to show the particular importance of this exchange and learning programme and the concrete outcomes for the involved cities.



*Tomasz Rzezucha, deputy president of the development agency, Ruda Śląska (PL)*



*Iuliu Ilyes, Mayor of Satu Mare (RO)*



*Gabor Radvanyi, Deputy Mayor of Kőbanya (HU) (left) and Benno Lensdorf, Mayor of Duisburg (DE) (right).*



*Prof. Simon Güntner: "LAP – tool of governance"*



*Local Action Plan Launch Event*



*Jean-Loup Drubigny during discussion round*



*Audience at the conference*



*Bernd Mielke, MA from NRW, during discussion round*

In the panels the RegGov perspective became clearer: Cities in dialogue with Managing Authorities and Regional Governance in Europe where the policy recommendations have been discussed. Simon Güntner, Professor for Social Science and Social Policy at the University of Applied Sciences HAW, Hamburg, DE reflected on the Local Action Plan within the multi-level governance system.

The conference was followed by an international event and exhibition on 13 May 2011 organised by the regional city network "Socially Integrative City North Rhine-Westphalia". Regional and international good practice of integrated development of deprived neighbourhoods was presented in a project market and discussed in workshops and seminars.



Event: Main square

The Partner Cities of the RegGov network were actively involved and represented at the event “StadtteilLeben – Active Cities in NRW and Europe” featuring their cities and projects and sharing their experiences with over 1,200 participants, together with representatives of DG Regio and the URBACT Secretariat.



Event: Main street



Event: Workshop on Roma integration



Event: Audience in front of main stage



Event: Merja Haapakka, DG Regio at panel discussion

## Final Report and Ten Recommendations



Event: Exhibition of neighbourhoods

The RegGov Partner Cities have been facing a broad range of challenges regarding their respective disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Integrated urban regeneration is one of the fields in which manifold challenges need to be tackled. Horizontal and vertical cooperation are necessarily linked. On the one hand, focusing only on horizontal relationships within the cities and neighbourhoods would ignore the importance of the regional, national and supra-national framework as a black box, although crucial pol-

icy conditions for acting at local level have been identified at all levels. On the other hand, the RegGov network has been working to elaborate this issue of multi-level interrelations in order to give more attention to local development, in particular in urban areas.

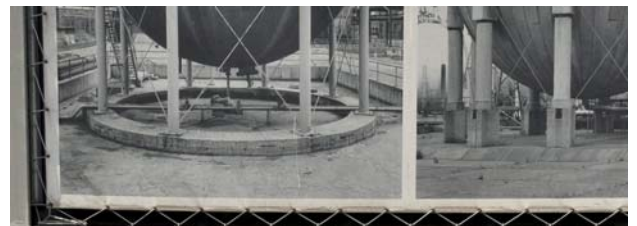
The Final Report<sup>1</sup> includes Ten Recommendations: Challenges and Conditions of Good Multi-Level Governance. Commonly developed policy recommendations for multi-level governance of deprived neighbourhoods which help summarise and focus the outcomes of the RegGov activities addressing politicians and decision-makers and authorities at all levels:

1. Strengthening regional governance from the bottom up: No local projects without integrated city-wide strategies
2. Integrated urban development: Area-based and cross-sector approaches
3. Activating and enabling inhabitants: Short-term successes and long-term visions
4. City networking: Give institutions a face and foster mutual trust
5. Coalition-building: Cooperation as a principle of work
6. Physical and infrastructure investments: Linked to socially integrative activities
7. Monitoring at all involved levels: Early warning system and seismograph of results
8. Special funding programmes: A chance for social innovation input in mainstream policy
9. Bundling where necessary: Stronger integration at programme level
10. Urban agenda: The strong role of cities in the next EU funding period



*The RegGov network*

In the latest RegGov Newsletter (no. 8, June 2011) please see more pictures from this event and learn more on the outputs!



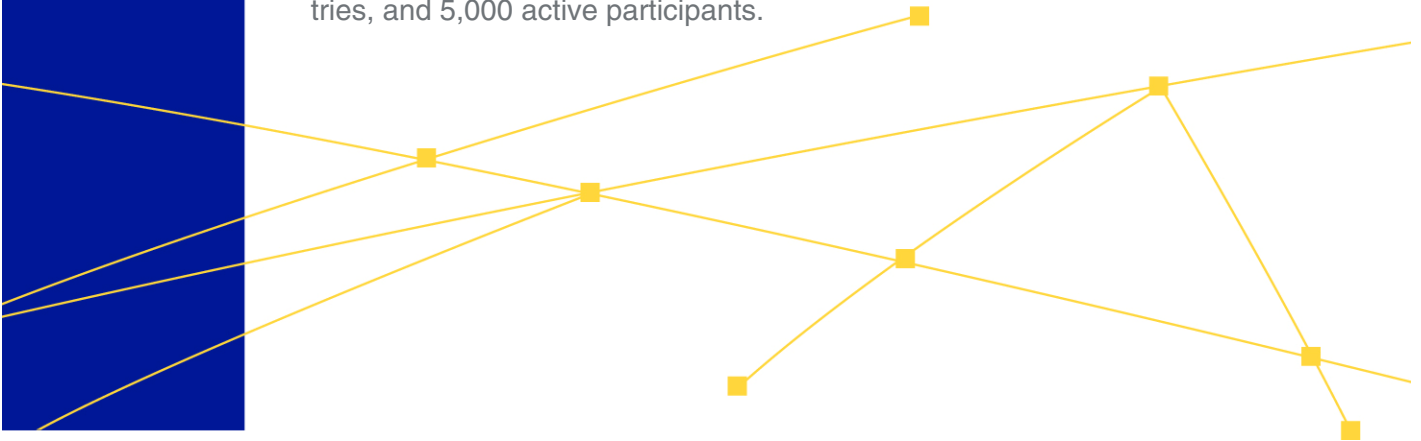
<sup>1</sup> RegGov Final Report, May 2011. Petra Potz, Lead Expert. The Final Report draws common conclusions of the network activities and gives an overview on the practical work including 14 case studies. Abstracts and Ten Recommendations in English and translated in DE, GR, HU, IT, PL, RO, SE are available. [http://urbact.eu/fileadmin/Projects/Reg\\_Gov/documents\\_media/Reggov\\_finalreport\\_web.pdf](http://urbact.eu/fileadmin/Projects/Reg_Gov/documents_media/Reggov_finalreport_web.pdf)

**Photo credits:** Günther Matczik and Dursun Yilmaz, EGDU; Roma workshop: Petra Potz  
**Author:** Petra Potz, RegGov Lead Expert, [potz@location3.de](mailto:potz@location3.de), June 2011

## URBACT II

**URBACT** is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal challenges. It helps them to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 300 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants.



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