

# Europe Metropolises newsletter

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[www.europemetropoles.com](http://www.europemetropoles.com)

EUROPE-METROPOLES NETWORK IS ORGANIZING  
A EUROPEAN MEETING  
- FRIDAY 28TH AND SATURDAY 29TH OF APRIL 2006 -  
WARSAW UNIVERSITY - POLAND

"ATTRACTIVITY OF CITIES, KEY OF EUROPEAN GROWTH"

## Objectives



75 % of European population live in cities of more than 250 000 inhabitants.

In consequence,

by means of the policy mix of their urban development and investment choices, cities play an essential role in the implementation of the main objectives of the European Union: economic and social cohesion, employment and growth, protection of the environment, sustain of innovation and democracy.

The maintain of their attractiveness is an essential factor for the concentration of investments and therefore the key element of their economic fate and the well being of their citizens.

To assure their development, European metropolises act inside the common European framework which defines the objectives and the harmonized quality threshold, whilst they dispose of a large variety of tools : European, national and local.

In this context the reinforcement of the direction of the appropriation of the projects and their modes of implementation, as well by the decision makers as

by the populations concerned, thus appears essential for the success of the urban development plans of large quoted European cities.

Within this framework, the annual conference of the Europe Metropolises Network will wonder about the decision factors of all urban decision makers, their political, administrative, financial and cultural constraints, to ensure the sharing of experiences and to facilitate the strategic plans of European metropolises at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The conference will gather local decision makers (elected and experts), representatives of the European Union and financial institutions, as well as actors of the urban development. Each round table will give the word to experts who will make share of their lived experiences and will detail the current and future tools at the disposal of European cities and metropolises. Their discussions and the exchanges with the participants will be supported by "detailed practical cases".

**More information and the registration form on :**  
[www.europemetropoles.com](http://www.europemetropoles.com)

## AGENDA

### 23rd of February 2006

Seminar organised in the Rooms of the Parisian Senate on the topic: The French and Japanese models of communal regrouping.  
More information on [www.senat.fr](http://www.senat.fr)

### 01st of March 2006

Conference organised in Paris by France Action Locale on the topic: Urban delinquency: how to make our urban districts safer?  
More information on [www.inform-elu.com](http://www.inform-elu.com)

### 03rd of March 2006

European conference organised in Paris on the topic: Middle-sized cities in north-western Europe.  
More information on [www.europolis.equipement.gouv](http://www.europolis.equipement.gouv)

### 03rd of March 2006

Conference organised in Kiruna in Sweden on the topic: equal opportunities between men and women within the European regions.  
More information on [www.a-e-r.org](http://www.a-e-r.org)

### 02nd-05th of April 2006

Third conference on the urban transport of the future in Göteborg, Sweden.  
More information on [www.fut.se](http://www.fut.se)

## SUMMARY

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With the support of :



## The dossier of the month

### Commission proposes strategy to improve the environment in Europe's cities

*« Four out of five European citizens now live in towns and cities and their quality of life is directly influenced by the state of the urban environment..»*



*The European Commission has launched a new Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment to help Member States and regional and local authorities improve the environmental performance of Europe's cities. The Strategy is one of seven foreseen under the 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme. Its goal is to facilitate better implementation of EU environmental policies and legislation at the local level through exchange of experience and good practice between Europe's local authorities. Four out of five European citizens now live in towns and cities and their quality of life is directly influenced by the state of the urban environment.*

#### The main actions under the strategy are:

- Guidance on integrated environmental management and on sustainable urban transport plans. The guidance will be based on cities' experiences, expert views and research, and will help ensure full implementation of EU legislation. It will provide sources of further information to help prepare and implement action plans.
- Training. A number of Community programmes will provide opportunities for training and capacity-building for local authorities to develop the skills needed for managing the urban environment. Moreover, support will be offered for local authorities to work together and learn from each other. These should be exploited both by the Member States and local authorities.
- Support for EU wide exchange of best practices. Consideration will be given for the establishment of a new European programme to exchange knowledge and experience on urban issues under the new Cohesion Policy. The Commission will closely cooperate with Member States and local authorities. This work will be based on a pilot network of focal points on urban issues (the "European Knowledge Platform") which offers advice to local authorities across Europe.
- Commission internet portal for local authorities. The feasibility of creating a new internet portal for local authorities on the Europa website will be explored to provide better access to the latest information.



More information on the European Commission website:  
[www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/urban/home\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/urban/home_en.htm)

## The European Structural Funds : A solidarity policy

### Why ?

Regional policy puts into practice the solidarity between the peoples of Europe mentioned in the preamble to the Treaty on European Union. It helps to achieve one of the fundamental objectives laid down in the Treaty: the strengthening of the EU's economic and social cohesion by reducing developmental disparities between its regions. It has a significant impact on the competitiveness of the regions and on the living conditions of their inhabitants, mainly by co-financing multiannual development programmes.

### What priorities?

The Structural Funds concentrate on three priority objectives: catch-up for regions lagging behind in development (**Objective 1**), socio-economic conversion of industrial, urban or rural zones or zones which are dependent on fisheries (**Objective 2**), and improved training and job opportunities (**Objective 3**), (Objective 1 region's programmes already include measures of this kind). Aid is also granted by four **Community Initiatives** which encourage cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation throughout the EU (INTERREG III), the regeneration of cities and neighbourhoods in crisis (URBAN II), equality in the labour market (EQUAL) and the development of rural areas

(LEADER+). And finally, the **Innovative actions** support experimental regional programmes.

### What budget?

The Structural Funds absorb approximately one third of the EU budget. Their allocation for the 2000-2006 period is EUR 195 billion for the EU 15, plus 15 billion for the new Member States between 2004 and 2006. The Cohesion Fund receives EUR 25.6 billion for the EU 25.

### What future?

For the 2007-2013 period, the Commission proposes to concentrate its priorities in three areas, with a global budget of approx. EUR 336 billion. "**Convergence**" will stimulate growth and employment in the less developed regions (principally the new Member States) which will continue to benefit from the Cohesion Fund. "**Competitiveness**" will anticipate changes in the rest of the EU. This will include a regional component, for which each Member State will select the beneficiary zones, and a national component based on the European employment strategy. "**Cooperation**" will draw on the experience acquired by INTERREG to encourage harmonious development throughout the EU territory.

## Reports and Research

*The contribution of cities and large agglomerations to growth and employment in our Regions/ European Commission/ November 2005*

Working document of the services of the commission concerning Cohesion policy and cities: The contribution of cities and large agglomerations to growth and employment in our Regions.

*Clean Urban Transport project for Europe: CUTE / European Commission / 2005*  
Presentation of the CUTE Project: objectives, cities concerned a.s.o

*European Commission Communication on the thematic strategy for urban environment / European Commission / January 2006*

A first analysis of the challenges encountered in urban areas, with four priority subjects: urban management, sustainable transport, construction and urbanism

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