



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Inter-service Group on Urban Development

Part 2

The urban dimension in other policies of the European Union

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1. Over-arching regulatory framework of internal market and competition law

1.1. Services of General Interest

Services of general interest cover a broad range of activities, from the large network industries such as energy, telecommunications, transport, audiovisual broadcasting and postal services, to education, water supply, waste management, health and social services. These services are essential for the daily life of citizens and enterprises, and reflect Europe's model of society. They play a major role in ensuring social, economic and territorial cohesion throughout the Union and are vital for the sustainable development of the EU in terms of higher levels of employment, social inclusion, economic growth and environmental quality.

In partnership with national, regional and local authorities, the EU has a role to play in framing the principles and conditions for the operation of a wide range of public services. This shared responsibility is reflected in the Treaty (article 14 TFEU) and in the Protocol n. 26 on services of general interest.

It is essentially the responsibility of public authorities, at the relevant level, to decide on the nature and scope of a service of general interest. Public authorities can decide to carry out the services themselves or they can decide to entrust them to other entities, which can be public or private, and can act either for-profit or not for-profit.

At the same time, providers of these services must respect the rules laid down in the EC Treaty and in secondary EU law, where these are applicable. Moreover, given their EU dimension, a number of network industries which perform services of general economic interest are now subject to sector-specific EU directives.

The Commission is aware that the application of Community law to services of general economic interest may raise questions and that a number of legal clarifications or explanations about EU rules are regularly sought in the various areas. In this context, the Commission is committed to enable users and practitioners to obtain quickly answers to practical questions, explanations and interpretations.

Alongside the [2007 Communication](#)¹, the Commission published the two first sets of Frequently Asked Questions which address questions concerning the application to services of general interest of:

- [public procurement rules](#)², and
- [State aid rules](#)³

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions accompanying the Communication on "A single market for 21st century Europe" – Services of general interest, including social services of general interest: a new European commitment (COM(2007) 725 final of 20 November 2007)
(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0725:FIN:EN:PDF>)

² Commission Staff Working Document – Frequently asked questions concerning the application of public procurement rules to social services of general interest (SEC(2007) 1514 of 20 November 2007)
(http://ec.europa.eu/services_general_interest/docs/sec_2007_1514_en.pdf)

At the same occasion, the Commission announced the creation of an [interactive information service](#)⁴, handling questions on the application of Community law to services of general interest (services covering such essential daily realities as energy, telecommunications, transport, radio and television, postal services, schools, health and social services, etc).

This initiative was taken in response to a demand for more practical information and guidance on Community rules relevant to services of general interest. The Commission expects that this tool will assist actors at local and regional levels to develop a good understanding of the position of the Commission on the relevant EU provisions and that over time all relevant questions arising in practice will be covered in a hands-on, user-friendly way. The Commission will reply to these questions, with a view to providing guidance on the pertinent Community law rules concerned.

For further details on the Commission's policy in this field and how the Commission is acting to help ensure clarity, coherence and publicity of the European rules, so that services of general interest can fulfil their missions and contribute to a better quality of life for European citizens, please, consult the [Commission's Secretariat-General website on services of general interest](#)⁵.

1.2. Public procurement and public-private partnership

The public authorities may decide to assign the provision of SGI and the performance of infrastructure work, especially urban operations, to other entities. Public procurement in the water, energy, public works and supply, and services sectors is governed by two Directives adopted in 2004⁶ which lay down rules for tender procedures.

Local authorities may assign the supply of services or the implementation of infrastructure projects to public or private enterprises or to partnerships between the public sector and the private sector. The [Green Paper on public-private partnerships and Community law on public contracts and concessions](#),⁷ adopted in 2004, defines the PPP as a form of cooperation between public authorities and the world of business which aims to ensure the funding, construction, renovation, management or maintenance of an infrastructure, especially in the transport, health or education sector, or the provision of a service especially at local level.

³ Commission Staff Working Document – Frequently asked questions in relation with Commission Decision of 28 November 2005 on the application of Article 86(2) of the EC Treaty to State aid in the form of public service compensation granted to certain undertakings entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest, and of the Community Framework for State aid in the form of public service compensation (SEC(2007) 1516 of 20 November 2007)

(http://ec.europa.eu/services_general_interest/docs/sec_2007_1516_en.pdf)

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/services_general_interest/registration/form_en.html

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/services_general_interest/index_en.htm

⁶ [Directive 2004/17/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors, OJ L 134/1 of 30.4.2004.

[Directive 2004/18/CE](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts, OJ L 134/114 of 30.4.2004.

[Commission interpretative communication](#) on the Community law applicable to contract awards not or not fully subject to the provisions of the Public Procurement Directives of 24.07.2006, OJ C 179/2 of 1.8.2006.

⁷ COM(2004) 327.

The challenge now is to provide a clear legal framework which is more homogeneous between the various Member States, as emphasised in the Communication from the Commission on PPP of November 2005.⁸ A lack of legal certainty in this field can constitute a real barrier to the establishment or due success of PPPs, to the detriment of the financing of major infrastructures and the development of high-quality public services.

The Commission has prepared an interpretative communication on institutionalised PPPs and Community law on public procurement. The Commission services are also undertaking an in-depth analysis of the impact of a possible legislative initiative on concessions. The final decision on this subject will depend on the result of this impact assessment.

Publications

Guide to the Community rules on public procurement of services:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/docs/guidelines/services_en.pdf

1.3. The urban dimension and State aid

The regeneration of deprived urban areas encompasses a wide spectrum of measures. For example, measures to promote entrepreneurship, employment, community development, rehabilitation of natural and built environment, preservation and development of historical and cultural heritage.

For some of these measures public spending will be necessary, some of which may constitute State aid in the meaning of Article 87(1) of the previous EC Treaty. Thus any public support aimed at urban regeneration and development must comply with the procedural and material EU State aid rules applicable at that point in time when the public support is granted.

In 2008 the Competition DG updated its "Vademecum on State aid control and regeneration of deprived urban areas", which is available on the Competition DG website:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/state_aid/studies_reports/vademecum.pdf

This document sets out the overall policy, presents the most important State aid measures approved in the urban regeneration field and summarises the current State aid guidelines and communications relevant to urban regeneration. The Vademecum is purely informative and does not create a new urban regeneration State aid policy but serves as a guide for practitioners in the field.

The Vademecum, summarising the rules in a concise manner, is a first point of reference for Community, national and local stakeholders dealing with State aid control issues, pointing to the relevant legal texts. It has been published in all the official languages, available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/studies_reports/vademecum_on_rules_09_2008_en.pdf

⁸ Communication from the Commission on Public-Private Partnerships and Community Law on Public Procurement and Concessions, COM(2005) 569 final.

2. European employment and social policy

2.1. Policy background related to urban issues

Solidarity is a hallmark of the European Union. It is an intrinsic goal of European models of society and welfare that people should not be prevented from benefiting from and contributing to economic and social progress. Building a more inclusive Europe is vital to achieving the European Union's goals of sustained economic growth, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.

Demographic trends, social exclusion and flows of migration create pressure for better housing and basic service provision. These challenges also require a new approach towards urban governance. The European Social Fund, and in particular its scope under the Convergence Objective, is well placed to support reforms aimed at better urban governance and management.

Cities make a critical contribution to sustainable development. They concentrate both needs and opportunities. While on the one hand, highly qualified people are over-represented in cities, so are those with very low skills and levels of qualifications. Cities also face specific problems such as a high share of the working poor as well as entire sectors of the informal economy.

Efforts to establish competitive, inclusive and vibrant urban economies will become more and more important in the future. In some urban areas, social polarisation continues to be a major challenge leading to multiple disadvantages, particularly for the elderly and single parent households. Therefore, special efforts should be made in fighting child poverty to break the cycle of deprivation and particular attention should be given to the situation of the disabled, immigrants and ethnic minorities⁹.

Recent Eurobarometer data show that Europeans see poverty as a widespread problem. Across the EU, citizens feel that around 1 in 3 people (29%) in their area live in poverty and that 1 in 10 suffers extreme poverty. In all Member States, part of the population is subject to exclusion and deprivation, often facing limited access to basic services. 19% of children are at risk of poverty across the EU and 1 in 10 live in households where nobody works.

2010 represents *The European year for combating poverty and social exclusion*. This will coincide with the conclusion of the EU's ten year strategy for growth and jobs. The actions undertaken during this European Year will reaffirm the initial political commitment of the EU at the start of the Lisbon strategy, in 2000, to making "a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty" by 2010. The European Year also launches a process that had been announced in the Social Agenda 2005-2010.

⁹ SEC(2007) 329

2.2. Past and current initiatives

2.2.1 The European Employment Strategy

Launched in 1997, the EES¹⁰ recognises that the objectives of full employment, improving quality at work and strengthening social cohesion cannot be achieved without greater participation of the regional and local levels. In a move to strengthen the social dimension of the EES, the Commission committed itself to the modernisation and development of the European social model as well as to the promotion of social cohesion with the adoption of the "Social Agenda 2005-2010"¹¹ in February 2005. The Agenda identifies the priorities – employment and equal opportunities and inclusion – that are also crucial when addressing the challenges of cities.

Member States also co-ordinate their policies for combating poverty and social exclusion on the basis of a process of policy exchanges and mutual learning known as the 'Open Method of Coordination' (OMC), this process covering the eradication of poverty and social exclusion.

Some initiatives for facing urban challenges:

- a) The Directive establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation¹² applies to all persons, in both the public and private sectors and including public bodies. It covers, notably, conditions for access to employment and vocational training, employment and working conditions.
- b) The communication of the Commission, "Roadmap for equality between women and men, 2006-2010"¹³ outlines six priority areas – such as equal economic independence for women and men, reconciliation of private and professional life, equal representation in decision-making, eradication of all forms of gender-based violence, combating stereo-types – and priority objectives and actions that may be undertaken at national, regional and local levels.¹⁴
- c) The communication "Implementing the Community Lisbon programme: Social services of general interest in the European Union"¹⁵ aims to identify and recognise the specific characteristics of social and health services of general interest and to clarify the framework in which they operate and can be modernised. This concerns cities since it can be observed that increasing decentralisation of the organisation of these services is going to the local or regional level.

¹⁰ Website on the EES: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/employment_strategy/index_en.htm

¹¹ COM (2005) 33.

¹² Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000, OJ L 303/16 of 2.12.2000.

¹³ COM(2006) 92.

¹⁴ The six areas are: equal economic independence for women and men; reconciliation of private and professional life; equal representation in decision-making; eradication of all forms of gender-based violence; elimination of gender stereotypes; promotion of gender equality in external and development policies.

¹⁵ COM(2006) 177.

- d) The Communication entitled "Implementing the partnership for growth and jobs: making Europe a pole of excellence in corporate social responsibility":¹⁶ an enterprise exercises corporate social responsibility (CSR) when it acts voluntarily (i.e. beyond the law) to further social and environmental goals within its normal business operations. CSR is important at the local level, and especially in often highly-charged urban contexts. A company being socially-responsible at the local level will be prepared to engage with local authorities and other stakeholders to encourage the local community to prosper. It will also undertake activities such as providing careers advice to local schools, or providing volunteers to cater for particular local needs. Being socially responsible also has implications for the quality of working life for local employees, for training provision, and for the extent to which a company contributes to a clean local environment.
- e) In March 2006, the European Council adopted a new framework for the social protection and social inclusion process. There is a new set of common objectives: three overarching objectives and objectives for each of the three policy areas of social inclusion, pensions and health and long-term care.¹⁷
- f) The Communication "Concerning a consultation on action at EU level to promote the active inclusion of the people furthest from the labour market"¹⁸ launched a two-stage consultation of all key stakeholders including public authorities at all levels. This initiative aims at mapping out possible directions for action at European level to support the social and labour market integration of marginalised people. It is based on an integrated policy mix combining three elements, namely a link to the labour market through job opportunities or training, income support sufficient to lead a dignified life and better access to services.

2.2.2 The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund

The EGF aims to enable the Community to provide targeted support for the re-integration into employment of workers made redundant as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns.

At the end of 2008 and as part of the European Economic Recovery Plan the European Commission made improvements to the EGF, aiming to bring its operations closer into line with its objective of solidarity towards workers who have lost their jobs – in particular in these times of economic crisis. The new proposals make the EGF a more effective crisis response instrument, helping more people to find their way back into the labour market.

To achieve these objectives, the EGF regulation has been amended¹⁹ in order to enhance the performance of the Fund:

¹⁶ COM(2006) 136.

¹⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/index_en.htm

¹⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/active_inclusion_en.htm

¹⁹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:167:0026:0029:EN:PDF>

- lowering the eligibility threshold for EGF applications from 1 000 to 500 redundant workers;
- extending to 24 months the duration of EGF support so as to allow sufficient time for the measures to be effective in re-integrating particularly the most vulnerable workers into new jobs;
- increasing the EU financial contribution from 50% to 65% to better reflect the emergency nature of the contribution (the other portion being paid by Member States);
- temporarily broadening the scope of eligibility for assistance under the EGF to encompass workers adversely affected by the economic and financial crisis, and not only those (as is the case at present) who lose their jobs as a result of changes in world trade patterns.

Funding and management

Once redundancies are formally notified to the Member State, and after the expiry of the period of negotiation required by national legislation, the Member State may apply to the Commission for a financial contribution to help the workers affected. In this sense Member States are required to establish a "direct and demonstrable" link between the redundancies and the financial and economic crisis. The derogation applies to all application received from 1 May 2009 and submitted before 31 December 2011". The Budgetary Authority decides on the financial allocation and its amount, following a Commission proposal.

The maximum amount of expenditure from the Fund can be up to €500 million per year.

For further information, contact:

European Commission

Employment DG

Unit B4 "Community Initiatives, European Globalisation Adjustment Fund":

empl-egf-info@ec.europa.eu

Eligible actions

Actions that are part of a coordinated package of personalised services designed to reintegrate redundant workers into the labour market, including:

- Job-search assistance, occupational guidance, tailor-made training including ICT skills and certification of acquired experience, outplacement assistance and entrepreneurship promotion or aid for self-employment;
- Special time-limited measures, such as job-search allowances or allowances to individuals participating in lifelong learning and training activities;
- Measures to stimulate in particular disadvantaged or older workers, to remain in or to return to the labour market.

Beneficiaries

The final beneficiaries of the EGF are the workers made redundant under certain conditions (see the regulation on the EGF).

2.2.3 Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS

The EU's new employment and social solidarity programme, PROGRESS works alongside the European Social Fund (ESF). It started in 2007 and will run until 2013. It replaces the four previous ones that ended in 2006 covering actions against discrimination, equality between men and women, employment measures and the fight against social exclusion.

The overall objective of the PROGRESS programme is to support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area and thereby, in the context of the Lisbon Strategy, contribute to achieving the objectives of the Social Agenda. It is therefore important to see it as complementary to Cohesion Policy for urban areas.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

The PROGRESS programme is divided into five sections: Employment, Social Protection, Working Conditions, Anti-discrimination and diversity, Gender Equality.

Funding and management

PROGRESS is managed by the European Commission (Employment DG) which launches calls for proposals. A budget of €28.8 million has been allocated for the period 2007-2013.

Eligible actions

The following actions may be supported:

- analytical activities that improve the understanding of the Social Policy Agenda issues, contribute to its effective implementation and help to improve coordination with other EU policy areas and strategies;
- activities involving mutual learning, exchanges of information, awareness-raising, identifying and promoting good practice and measures related to monitoring and evaluation (e.g. peer reviews) that help to establish the state-of-play in Member States and, in this way, improve the application of Community rules;
- activities that support the main stakeholders in order to promote the exchange of good practice, the sharing of information, preventive awareness-raising measures, as well as discussion processes.

Beneficiaries

Public and private bodies, local and regional authorities and relevant actors and stakeholders (universities and research institutes, as well as the social partners and non-governmental organisations).

2.2.4 The European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, 2010

The European Commission has designated 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The €17 million campaign aims to reaffirm the EU's commitment to making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty by 2010.

"The fight against poverty and social exclusion is one of the EU's central objectives and our shared approach has been an important tool to guide and support action in the Member States," said Social Affairs Commissioner Vladimír Špidla. "The European Year will take this even further, by raising public awareness of the way poverty continues to blight the daily lives of so many Europeans."

78 million people in the EU – or 16% of the population – currently live at risk of poverty.

The initiative aims to reach EU citizens and all public, social and economic stakeholders. Its four specific objectives are:

- Recognition of the right of people in poverty and social exclusion to live in dignity and to play a full part in society;
- An increase in the public ownership of social inclusion policies, emphasising everyone's responsibility in tackling poverty and marginalisation;
- A more cohesive society, where no one doubts that society as a whole benefits from the eradication of poverty;
- Commitment of all actors, because real progress requires a long-term effort that involves all levels of governance.

2.3. Further information

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Unit A1: European Social Fund (ESF) Coordination and
Unit D2: European Employment Strategy, CSR, Local Development

Websites

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/home.jsp?langId=en>

European Globalisation Adjustment Fund including guidance for applicants affected by redundancy:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=326&langId=en>

PROGRESS - for the relevant documents (work programme, calls for proposals) and updated information, see the website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=327&langId=en&furtherPubs=yes>

List of contact points in EMPLOYMENT DG regarding each section of PROGRESS:

Section (1) Employment: Units D1 "Employment analysis" and D2 "European Employment Strategy"

Section (2) Social Inclusion and Social Protection: Unit E2 "Inclusion, Social Policy aspects of Migration, Streamlining of Social Policies" and E4 "Social Protection, social services".

Section (3) Working Conditions: F2 "Working Conditions and adaptation to change" and F4 "Health, Safety and Hygiene at work"

Section (4) Non-Discrimination and Diversity: G4 "Action against discrimination and civil society", G3 "Integration of disabled people" and G2 "Equality, action against discrimination".

Section (5) Gender equality: G1 "Equality between women and men" and G2 "Equality, Action against Discrimination: legal questions".

3. Environment policy

3.1. Policy background and urban issues

Most cities are confronted with a common core of environmental problems, such as poor air quality, high levels of traffic and congestion, high levels of ambient noise, poor-quality built environment, derelict land, greenhouse gas emissions, urban sprawl, and generation of waste and waste-water.

The environmental problems in cities are particularly complex as their causes are inter-related. Local initiatives to resolve one problem can lead to new problems elsewhere and can conflict with policies at national or regional level. Problems related to a poor quality built environment are often linked to underlying socio-economic problems.

However cities are also the economic drivers, the places where business is done and investments are made. Therefore it is essential to make them more attractive, healthier and more liveable places. The European Commission has long recognised the important role that local authorities play in improving the environment, and their high level of commitment to genuine progress. The *European Green Capital Award*²⁰ has been conceived as an initiative to promote and reward these efforts.

Past and current initiatives

The 1990 Green Paper on the Urban Environment²¹ was the start of a new focus at the European level on urban issues. Recognising that the majority of Community policies have, directly or indirectly, an influence on urban areas, represented a first step towards moving beyond sectoral approaches, considering the social and economic factors that are often at the root of environmental problems.

Following the 1998 Commission Communication on "Sustainable Urban Development in the European Union: A Framework for Action",²² the Council and European Parliament adopted in 2001 the "Community Framework for cooperation to promote sustainable urban development"²³ (2001-2004) to define exchange and implement good practices in the framework of Agenda 21. This initiative was addressed to networks of towns and cities organised at European level.

In 2002, the Council and European Parliament adopted the Sixth Environmental Action Programme (6th EAP),²⁴ the environmental component of the Community's strategy for sustainable development, which lays down environmental objectives and priorities for the period 2002-2012.

²⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/index_en.htm

²¹ COM (90) 218.

²² COM (98) 605.

²³ Decision No 1411/2001/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on a Community Framework for cooperation to promote sustainable urban development, OJ L 191/1 of 13.7.2001.

²⁴ Decision No 1600/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2002 laying down the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme, OJ L 242/1 of 10.9.2002.

The 6th EAP requires the European Commission to prepare Thematic Strategies covering seven areas that provide a policy framework for up to 2020. The Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment²⁵ provides a framework for an integrated and focused approach using existing policy instruments and initiatives. It calls for better management of urban areas through integrated environmental management at the local level. More concretely, the measures proposed in the Strategy are:

- Technical guidance on (1) "An integrated approach to managing the urban environment"; and (2) "Developing sustainable urban transport plans", provided by the Environment Directorate-General, drawing on experiences and giving practice examples based on stakeholder consultations;
- Support for exchange of best practice using Community funding instruments (such as LIFE+, Cohesion and Research Policy) for demonstration projects and networking between national focal points;
- Support for training and capacity building by using Community funding instruments (e.g. the LIFE+ Programme and the European Social Fund);

Urban development actors have also to take into account relevant legislation such as the Water Framework Directive,²⁶ the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive²⁷ and the Directive of 2008²⁸ on ambient air quality and cleaner air.

Under this recent Directive Member States are required to reduce exposure to PM_{2.5} in urban areas by an average of 20% by 2020 based on 2010 levels. The new Directive introduces new objectives for fine particles but does not change existing air quality standards. It does, however, give Member States greater flexibility in meeting some of these standards in areas where they have difficulty complying. The deadlines for complying with the PM₁₀ standards can be postponed for three years after the Directive's entry into force (mid-2011). Finally, a mention of Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, legislation on which is being reviewed and is foreseen to be completed in 2010-2011.

3.1.1 Life Plus programme

Between 1992 and 2006 the LIFE programme, the main financial instrument for environment policy, co-financed an average of 11 projects on the urban environment annually, totalling 158 projects. The high number of Romanian (39%), Slovakian (33%) and Estonian (14%) LIFE-Environment projects focusing on urban issues may have reflected the particular difficulties faced by cities and towns in some of the new Member States. Considering the special role and responsibility that local authorities have in managing the urban environment, it is not surprising that they constituted almost 55% of the LIFE-Environment beneficiaries of urban projects, as opposed to their 21% overall share of LIFE-Environment projects.

The LIFE+ Programme²⁹ runs until 2013. It supports the implementation of the 6th Environmental Action Programme, including the thematic strategies on the urban

²⁵ COM (2005) 718 final.

²⁶ European Parliament and Council Directive 2000/60/EC, OJ L 327/1 of 22.12.2000.

²⁷ Council Directive 91/271/EC, OJ L 135/40 of 30.5.1991.

²⁸ OJ L 152, 11.6.2008, p. 1-44

²⁹ Regulation n° 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+), OJL 149/1 of 9.6.2007.

environment as well as financing measures and projects with European added value in Member States. LIFE+ has three components³⁰ of interest to urban issues, including LIFE+ Environment and Governance.

The third LIFE+ call for proposals³¹ was published in 15 May 2009, with up to €250 million available for the co-financing of projects under three headings: nature and biodiversity; environment policy and governance; and information and communication. Proposals under environment policy and governance and information and communication could be of interest for cities.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

- Climate change: the European Climate Change Programme (and any successor);
- Environment and health: including the Environment and Health Action plan, the Water Framework Directive, Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) and the Marine, Soil, Urban and Pesticides Thematic Strategies;
- Sustainable use of resources: the resources and waste prevention and recycling thematic strategies, sustainable production and consumption strategies.

Eligible actions

- Studies, surveys, modelling and scenario-building,
- Monitoring,
- Capacity-building assistance,
- Training, workshops and meetings,
- Networking,
- Best practice platforms,
- Awareness-raising campaigns,
- Information and communication actions,
- Demonstration of policy approaches and instruments.

Funding and management

The Commission manages the LIFE+ programme by way of annual calls for proposals invited from public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions, including cities and municipalities. The budget foreseen for the 2007-2013 period is €2,143 billion. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

³⁰ The LIFE+ Programme (2007-2013): LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance, LIFE+ Information and Communication.

³¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus2009/call/index.htm>

3.1.2 The European Green Capital Award

The scheme is designed to encourage cities to improve the quality of urban life by taking the environment systematically into account in urban planning, also encouraging the exchange of best practice. The annual award is a new initiative presented to a city in the vanguard of environmentally friendly urban living. Some 35 cities applied for the 2010 and 2011 awards.

Stockholm and Hamburg were named as the first winners of the new European Green Capital award. The Swedish capital will be European Green Capital in 2010 followed by Hamburg in 2011. The European Commission's new award scheme encourages cities to improve the quality of urban life by taking the environment systematically into account in urban planning.

3.2. Further information

The Directorate-General for Environment:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/index_en.htm

On the urban environment:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/urban/home_en.htm

The LIFE programme provides a wide scope for exchange of experience and information on projects. The links below give access to the bulk of information which is available

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

LIFE projects database:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

LIFE+ 2007-2013:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

LIFE in the city: Innovative solutions for Europe's urban environment":

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/urban_lr.pdf

Contact point at the Environment DG – website of the "LIFE Unit":

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

European Green Capital Award:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/index_en.htm

DG Environment has produced two Guidance documents on the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment:

- [Integrated Environmental Management Plans \(IEMP\)](#),
- [Sustainable Urban Transport Plans \(SUTP\)](#)

4. European research and development policy

4.1. Policy background and urban issues

Cities house 80% of Europe's population and most of its social and environmental challenges. Steps to create sustainable urban living must be underpinned by high quality research.

4.2. Funding: Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities

Since 1984 the successive Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development (FPs) have been the main financial tools through which the European Union supports research and development activities covering almost all scientific disciplines.

Within the 5th Framework Programme (1998-2002), EU research on urban issues was supported mainly through two Key-Actions: Key-Action "Sustainable Mobility and Intermodality" and Key-Action "City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage".

With 140 projects and a €170 million total budget, the "City of tomorrow and cultural heritage" Key-Action addressed urban issues in a holistic and integrated way in order to provide local stakeholders with the practical tools and knowledge for sustainable urban development. In addition to the strong involvement of urban end-users in the FP projects, on average, 5-6 cities participated in each project, including a coordinator.

Within the 6th Framework Programme (2002-2006), urban issues were addressed within two main Thematic Priorities: "Sustainable Surface Transport" and "Global Change and Ecosystems". The limited funding available was mainly dedicated to addressing relevant EU policy research needs and stimulating the dissemination of new knowledge generated by EU research for urban sustainability to applied research and demonstration activities in the field of transport and energy.

In the 7th Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013),³² urban-related issues are spread across the "Cooperation" Specific Programme.³³ This concerns five out of eight different themes. The broad objectives of FP7 have been grouped into four categories: Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities. The "Cooperation" Specific Programme is designed to support transnational cooperation on defined research themes, between universities, industry, research centres and public authorities across the European Union as well as the rest of the world. Information on the Programme is provided below.

Management

The FP7 specific programme "Cooperation" is managed by the European Commission which launches calls for proposals. The calls for proposals under FP7 are set out in annual work

³² Decision No 1982/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013), OJ L 412/1 of 30.12.2006.

³³ Council Decision No 2006/971/EC of 19 December 2006 concerning the Specific Programme Cooperation implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007 to 2013), OJ L 400/86 of 30.12.2006.

programmes (one per Specific Programme) which provide details about the topics, funding schemes, beneficiaries, timings and implementation.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

- The "Information and communication technologies" research theme aims to improve the competitiveness of European industry and enable Europe to master and shape the future developments of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) so that the demands of its society and economy are met. Urban actions may be financed under "Integration of technologies" (home environments such as buildings and public spaces) and "Applications Research" (ICT meeting societal challenges, including e-government, e-health and e-inclusion) activities.
- The "Energy" research theme supports the development and demonstration of concepts and technologies to improve energy efficiency and enable savings in consumption, over their life cycle, for buildings, transport, services and industry. Urban-related activities include the integration of strategies and technologies for energy efficiency (including co- and poly-generation), the use of new and renewable energy technologies and energy demand management measures and devices, and the demonstration of minimum climate impact buildings, which will be more specifically addressed.
- The main objective of the "Environment" research theme is to advance our knowledge on the interactions between climate, biosphere, ecosystems and human activities, and to develop new technologies, tools and services for the sustainable development of the environment and its resources. It recognises the urbanisation pressure. Relevant urban issues should be addressed from the perspectives of "Climate Change, Pollution and risks" (emissions and health risks), the "Management of resources" (sustainable management and planning of urban environment), "Environmental technologies" (including technologies for water and waste treatment and management; sustainable built environment; and the protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage), and "Assessment tools for sustainable development" (in particular the knowledge base and methodologies for sustainability impact assessment).
- The "Transport" research theme aims at promoting technological advances, developing integrated, "greener", "smarter" and safer pan-European transport systems for the benefit of all citizens and society, respecting the environment and natural resources. Within the "Surface Transport" activity, there will be a dedicated priority area on "Ensuring Sustainable Urban Mobility". The research priorities should be covering the following five research areas: new transport and mobility concepts, high quality public transport, demand management, innovative strategies for clean urban transport, policy support.
- Within the "Socio-economic sciences and humanities" research theme, the research priorities address key societal, economic and cultural challenges facing Europe and the world now and in the future. In the first call, under the heading "Combining economic, social and environmental objectives", research will address the role of cities, urban development and related governance issues, as well as cities and social cohesion. Under the heading

"Major trends in society and their implications", it will address the implications of demographic change for urban development, and interactions between diverse cultures in urban spaces. It will also address how culture and creativity have interacted in the historical experiences of European cities.

Within the FP7, specific attention will be paid to the support to policies, international cooperation and the dissemination and exploitation of results. The project participants must form a consortium. Urban development actors submit proposals under the following funding schemes in the framework of the Specific Programme "Cooperation":

- Collaborative projects: support to research projects carried out by consortia with participants from different countries, aiming at developing new knowledge, new technology, products or common resources for research. Projects can range from small or medium-scale focused research actions to larger integrating projects which mobilise a significant volume of resources for achieving a defined objective.
- Coordination and support actions: support to activities aimed at coordinating or supporting research such as networking, exchanges, studies, conferences, etc.

Eligible beneficiaries

The criteria of eligibility, including the number of participants to a consortium, depend on the type of funding schemes adopted. As a general rule, cities and local stakeholders can participate as consortium member in most research activities. Their participation is certainly encouraged for urban-related topics where they can contribute either to the research itself as end-user or for the dissemination and exploitation activities

Budget

EUR 54,281 million are allocated for the 2007-2013 period. There is no specific allocation for urban development projects.

4.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC

ACTOR: In support of the Aalborg Commitments signatories and more generally sustainable urban policies, the project is developing an on-line toolkit and guidance.
www.actor.sustainable-cities.org.uk/index.html.

ESCITY aims at promoting scientific culture within the context of the cultural policies of cities. It will create a network for the exchange of information and best practices in the promotion of scientific culture at the local level.
www.escity.org

EURFORUM: is being supported to better structure and coordinate European research on urban mobility for both passengers and goods by involving all relevant stakeholders.
www.eurforum.net/html/

NICHES: The project provides support for the implementation of the most promising new mobility concepts within the Coordination Action to move them from their "niche" position to a "mainstream" urban transport policy application in cities.
www.niches-transport.org

STATUS: Its principal aim is to develop locally-relevant targets for local authorities across Europe to self-assess progress with urban sustainable development. These targets will be developed, through building on the synergies between the Urban Thematic Strategy themes and the Aalborg Commitments.

www.localtargets21.eu

Susta-Info: The transfer to non-EU countries is ensured through the collaboration with UN-Habitat and the development of a common on-line database of research results and best practices.

www.susta-info.net/

URBAN-NET: The URBAN-NET project addresses urban sustainability in Europe. Its overall aim is to increase the cooperation and coordination between European Member and Associated States through networking and collaboration on joint research activities.

www.urban-net.org

URBAN MATRIX This EURO CITIES lead project connects knowledge providers and end-users to allow exchange of best practice, expertise and application of SUD solutions, with the objectives of meeting the needs of cities and helping dissemination and implementation of current and future EU legislation affecting cities and the use of EU project outputs.

www.eukn.org/urbanmatrix/

4.4. Information sources

Websites

Cordis (For information on the FP7 and relevant documents (annual work programme and calls for proposals):

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

DG Research and FP7:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/home_en.html

City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage (FP5)

[Link to update](#)

Publications

List of DG RTD publications in the field of "environment research":

http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index_en.cfm?pg=publications

List of DG RTD publications in the field of transport:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/transport/more_info/publications_en.cfm?opened=

List of DG RTD publications in the field of Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/library_en.html

European Research in action – "Urban Research":

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/leaflets/urban_research/index_en.html

5. European transport policy

5.1. Policy background and urban issues

Clean and efficient urban transport systems are essential for the economic, social and environmental health of a successful future Europe. Citizens and businesses expect access to clean and efficient mobility, especially in the face of significant international competition. However, built-up urban areas continue to be significant contributors to congestion, accidents and environmental impact and offer significant scope for improvement. How to ensure efficient mobility while at the same time reducing congestion, accidents and pollution is a common challenge across Europe.

The EU supports and promotes an integrated approach to urban transport problems. However, it is usually local authorities, rather than the EU, which take the lead on urban mobility projects. The EU also provides support, for example, through projects that help to identify, disseminate and exchange best practice in areas such as transport infrastructure, norm-setting, congestion and traffic management, public transport services, infrastructure charging, urban planning, traffic safety, mobility services for people and for goods, and co-operation with the surrounding regions.

The European policy for transport is complemented by the European policy on Information and Communication Technologies (see chapter 7).

Past and current initiatives

Mid-term review of the White Paper "European Transport Policy for 2010: Time to Decide"³⁴ identifies sustainable mobility and urban transport as priority areas.

Green Paper on "Energy Efficiency or Doing More with Less"³⁵ makes clear that more needs to be done to improve energy efficiency in the transport sector, particularly the road transport sector.

Green Paper on "A European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy Supply"³⁶ proposes major efforts to improve energy efficiency in the transport sector and to rapidly improve public transport in Europe's major cities.

The Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment:³⁷ recognises that action in the field of urban transport needs to be taken at all levels (local, regional, national and European).

The Green Paper on urban mobility³⁸ identifies the challenges for sustainable urban mobility in Europe. Following the consultation on the Green Paper, the Commission is developing ideas for concrete actions, following a comprehensive, integrated approach to strengthen sustainable urban mobility.

³⁴ COM (2006) 314 final.

³⁵ COM (2005) 265 final.

³⁶ COM (2006) 105 final.

³⁷ COM (2005) 718 final.

³⁸ "Towards a new culture for urban mobility" , COM (2007) 551

The intelligent car initiative³⁹ "Raising Awareness of ICT for Smarter, Safer and Cleaner Vehicles" aims at promoting communication technologies to improve safety and efficiency in transport.

The Commission's Directorate-General for Transport and Energy (DG TREN) applies the principle of mainstreaming of disability issues in all its policies and actions in line with the EU Disability Action Plan 2005-2009. This is also reflected in the Commission Communication "Reinforcing passengers' rights in the European Union: the way forward",⁴⁰ which sets out the Commission's strategy for reinforcing passengers' rights in all modes of transport until 2010 and beyond.

The European programmes for radio navigation by satellite, EGNOS and GALILEO, allow the development of unique positioning instruments which will facilitate urban mobility and generate levels of service suited to the current needs of citizens.

A new Directive on Clean Vehicle Procurement⁴¹ will help to increase market share for clean vehicles through public procurement measures.

The public service regulation 1370/2007⁴² includes an obligation to conclude public service contracts when authorities grant exclusive rights or financial compensations for public transport operations. It will come into force on 3 December 2009.

Future initiatives

Following the consultation on the Green Paper, the Commission has developed ideas for concrete actions, following a comprehensive, integrated approach to strengthen sustainable urban mobility in Europe. These and further concrete actions have been embedded into an overall Action Plan on urban mobility adopted by the European Commission on 30 September 2009. The Action Plan consists of twenty headings aiming to encourage and assist local, regional and national authorities to achieve their objectives for sustainable urban mobility. The vision of the document is to make urban transport easier, greener and better organised. In the course of 2012 the Commission will conduct an evaluation of the implementation of the Action Plan and will analyse prospects for continuing with it.

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/urban/urban_mobility/action_plan_en.htm

The following actions were launched during 2009:

- Funds will be granted for new pilot projects that result from a Call for Proposals that was closed in March 2009. These pilot projects reflect some of the priorities we have identified: cycling and walking; freight transport, green zones; and actions to promote public transport;
- An internet has been set up to help public authorities in their purchases of clean and energy efficient vehicles, e.g. cleaner buses for their public

³⁹ COM (2006) 59final

⁴⁰ COM (2005) 47 final.

⁴¹ DIRECTIVE 2009/33/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles

⁴² REGULATION (EC) No 1370/2007 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 October 2007 on public passenger transport services by rail and by road and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) Nos 1191/69 and 1107/70

transport fleet. The site provides information and guidance for green public procurement and support lifetime calculations as well as joint procurement.

- The Commission has provided information on urban mobility legislation and funding on its website. This should develop into a reference point for information on EU action and financial support in the field of urban mobility.
- Study to explore the opportunities for making public transport systems more inter-operable, including better information and smart ticketing.
- Study on 'green zones'. The results of this study should help cities to identify solutions that suit their needs and strengthen environmental protection, while ensuring, at the same time, freedom of movement in a non-discriminatory way for all citizens in the Union.

5.2. Funding possibilities

5.2.1 Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities

The FP7 specific programme "Cooperation" aims to support transnational cooperation between relevant stakeholders in defined areas. It supports activities to promote clean urban transport strategies through the "Transport" and "Energy" research themes. For general information on the FP7, see chapter 4 "European Research and Development Policy".

"Transport" and "Energy" research themes

The "Surface transport" activity aims at ensuring sustainable urban mobility for all citizens. It is expected that research will cover new transport and mobility concepts, high quality public transport, strategies for clean urban transport, demand management measures, and the promotion of non-polluting modes such as cycling and walking.

FP7 also supports the production and use of alternative fuels and energy carriers in the road transport sector. The Directive on Renewables⁴³ establishes binding national renewable energy targets corresponding to an EU target of a 20% share of renewable energy sources in energy consumption in 2020 – including a binding 10% minimum target for renewable energy in transport to be achieved by each Member State. Candidate alternative fuels include biofuels, electricity and hydrogen.

The "Energy" research theme supports a number of alternative motor fuels demonstration projects Under the initiative "Biofuels use in transport" the project "*Demonstration of 2nd Generation Vegetable Oil Fuels in Advanced Engines*"-(*2nd Veg Oil*) aims to prepare the ground for large-scale use of 2nd generation vegetable oils in advanced engines, notably in hybrid drivetrains.

FP7 also foresees that the development and demonstration of hydrogen as an energy carrier for transport will be supported under the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Technology Initiative

⁴³ 2009/28/EC of 23 April 2009

(JTI). This Joint Undertaking, a public-private-partnership, was established by regulation on 30th May 2008 and comprises the European Commission, an Industry Grouping and a Research Grouping. The Joint Undertaking (JU) is responsible for publishing Annual and Multi-annual Implementation Plans for the period 2006-2013 setting out an R&D strategy for accelerating development and deployment of these technologies in the 2012-2020 timeframe. The JU is also responsible for launching and implementing Calls for Proposals for R&D on hydrogen and fuel cell technologies for stationary, portable and transport applications.

Efforts on hydrogen for transport in FP7 build on the successes of hydrogen demonstration projects supported under FP6. In all, around 100 hydrogen fuelled vehicles, including buses, cars and special purpose vehicles will be demonstrated, along with different ways of producing, distributing and dispensing hydrogen in the three projects HyFLEET:CUTE; Zero Regio; and HyChain.

The Commission has also responded to the economic recession by introducing a Green Cars Initiative – a public private partnership linked with the European Economic Recovery Plan⁴⁴. Part of the Green Cars is concerned with a co-ordinated R&D effort on clean, efficient road vehicle technologies. This included a call for proposals in 2009 for research and demonstration relating to electric vehicles, associated charging infrastructure and pre-normative effort to support preparation of relevant safety and operational standards.

Beneficiaries

Consortia for FP7 and the Joint Undertaking will include public and private partners such as industry, utilities, transport operators, cities, consultants, research institutes, etc.

Further information

The contact point will be different from one research theme to another and will be specified within each call for proposals. For the relevant documents (annual work programme and calls for proposals) and updated information on the FP7, consult the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking and the website:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7>

Integrated approach: CIVITAS Initiative

Under the CIVITAS Initiative, the Commission co-funds projects which address energy and transport issues in a coherent manner. The initiative is co-financed 50%-50% by the transport and energy themes of the Framework Programmes. The initiative helps cities to achieve more sustainable, clean and energy efficient urban transport systems by implementing, demonstrating and evaluating an ambitious integrated mix of technology and policy-based measures.

Eligible actions

CIVITAS supports demonstration projects of integrated packages of technology and policy measures in the field of clean and energy efficient urban transport. Each city-led project should combine, in an integrated way, tools and measures from as many as possible of the following categories: increased use of (short/medium term) alternative fuels and clean, energy-efficient vehicles and their integration into the transport system; stimulation of high

⁴⁴ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL: A European Economic Recovery Plan, COM(2008)800 final; 26.11.2008

quality and innovative, energy-efficient collective transport and its integration with other modes; demand management strategies; mobility management; marketing, information and education; safe and secure road infrastructure and means of travel for all users; new mobility services for more energy efficient vehicle use or ownership; less car-dependent lifestyles; energy-efficient urban freight logistics; new concepts for goods distribution; innovative telematics systems for traffic management and traveller services (Galileo applications).

Beneficiaries

City-led consortia, including public and private partners such as transport operators, research institutes and universities, industry, consultants, NGOs, etc. may respond to CIVITAS plus annual calls for proposals.

Budget

For the previous period the EC contribution to CIVITAS (CIVITAS I, CIVITAS II and CIVITAS Plus) amounted to a total of EUR 180 million. At this moment no further CIVITAS demonstration calls are foreseen during FP7. However, funding opportunities might become available for dissemination and take up actions, including staff exchanges.

5.2.2 Intelligent Energy Europe programme (2007-2013)

The Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme is financed under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP),⁴⁵ as the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme and the ICT Policy Support Programme. The CIP provides funding for actions to enhance competitiveness and innovation, complementing the research-oriented activities promoted by the FP7. The IEE Programme is a non-technological programme in the field of energy, focusing on the removal of market barriers, changing behaviour, creating a more favourable business environment for increasing energy efficiency and renewables markets, and making EU energy policy better understood and implemented in Europe's cities and regions.

Actions funded under the IEE programme to promote energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources in transport may include: supporting initiatives relating to all energy aspects of transport and diversification of fuels; promoting renewable and alternative fuels and energy efficiency in transport; supporting the preparation and application of legislative measures (for further information see section 6.2).

Management

The IEE Programme is managed by the Intelligent Energy Executive Agency (IEEA) that launches annual calls for proposals.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

The programme is structured in three specific fields, including the STEER sub-programme that provides support for initiatives relating to all energy aspects of transport, through developing new and renewable energy sources, the promotion of renewable fuels and energy efficiency in transport.

⁴⁵ Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013), OJ L 310/15 of 9.11.2006.

Eligible actions

The IEE programme does not fund technical research projects. It acts rather as a catalyst for socio-economic, market, regulatory, policy and institutional changes: e.g. transfer of experience, promotion of best practices, education and training, institutional capacity building, dissemination of projects, market replication projects, information dissemination, creation of new standards and norms, etc.

STEER focuses its support on three domains: alternative fuels and clean vehicles (joint procurement, campaigns, etc.), energy efficient transport (collective transport, demand management, walking, cycling, eco-driving, freight, etc.) and capacity-building for local and regional agencies (training, staff exchanges, etc.).

Beneficiaries

Any organisations, such as public and private partners (local agencies, transport operators, cities, research institutes, NGOs etc.). A minimum of three partners should participate with objectives that have a European-wide impact.

Budget

The budget for the CIP is EUR 3 621 300 of which 20% will be allocated to the IEE Programme.

5.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC

The CIVITAS Forum provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences on clean vehicles, alternative fuels and innovative measures to improve urban transport. <http://www.civitas-initiative.eu>

The European Local Transport Information Service, ELTIS, offers on-line information about EU, national, regional and local policy, publications, events and other issues relevant for the urban transport community. It also includes a database with more than 500 good practice case studies (see below).

5.4. Further information

Websites

Website of DG Transport:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/index_en.html

CIVITAS, including manuals, technical and policy reports are available on the CIVITAS website download centre:

<http://www.civitas.eu>

Contact point:

tren-civitas@ec.europa.eu

Urban transport and mobility, ELTIS:

www.eltis.org

The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme:

http://www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html

More information on the FP7 Joint Technology Initiative and the Industry Grouping, NEW is available at the website:

<http://www.fchindustry-jti.eu/default.asp>

6. European energy policy

6.1. Policy background and urban issues

Urban areas are the largest consumers of energy; around 80% of total energy is consumed by towns and cities in Europe. Besides, energy use in cities is growing by 1.9% annually, on average, compared to 1.6% overall. The energy demand of urban areas, the improvement of the energy efficiency and energy use of buildings, as well as the supply of renewable energy for transport, electricity and heating and cooling are of major importance to achieve the objectives of sustainable economic growth and improving the urban environment.

Local authorities play four key roles related to energy:

- As consumers and service providers
- As planner, developer and regulator
- As advisor, motivator and role model
- As producer and supplier

On this basis, it is deemed necessary to support local authorities to play a fuller part in EU sustainable energy policy.

Past and current initiatives

The Commission's energy strategy package adopted in January 2007, recognises the role of urban areas in the increasing demand for energy and rising oil prices, and the necessity for investment in environmental technologies to ensure sustainable economic growth, decrease environmental impacts and stimulate innovation and job creation.

The Commission's Energy Efficiency Action Plan⁴⁶ proposes that a greater use of available and economically viable energy-efficient technologies and techniques should reduce the use of primary energy by 20%. Greater energy savings in buildings (in particular in the new Member States, including in the multi-family and social housing sectors), as well as reducing our overall energy requirements and improving the security of our supply, also reduces CO2 emissions and makes homes and workplaces more comfortable. It promotes social inclusion by raising the living standard of many people in the EU and has considerable job-creating potential. The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive⁴⁷ (EPBD), the Directive on the promotion of cogeneration⁴⁸ (CHP) and the Energy Services Directive⁴⁹ promote efficient heating installations in urban areas due to the heavy heat load, leading to lower emissions of particulate matter.

⁴⁶ COM (2006) 545.

⁴⁷ Directive 2002/91/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the energy performance of buildings. OJ L 1/65 of 4.1.2003.

⁴⁸ Directive 2004/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of cogeneration based on a useful heat demand in the internal energy market and amending Directive 92/42/EEC. OJ L 52/50 of 21.2.2004.

⁴⁹ Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy end-use efficiency and repealing Council Directive 93/76/EEC. OJ L 114/64 of 27.4.2006.

The Energy Efficiency Action Plan includes a priority specific to the urban dimension: the launch of the Covenant of Mayors⁵⁰. It consists of the commitment by City Councils to go beyond the EU objectives in terms of CO₂ reduction, through the preparation and implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans. As of December 2009, over 1 000 cities, including 20 capitals, have joined in. Several services and facilities appear in this initiative. A new financial facility, ELENA, has been created in cooperation with the EIB to facilitate the financing of local investments in sustainable energy. The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is engaged in supporting the development of methodologies for the action plans for sustainable energy. A secretariat and evaluation mechanisms have also been set up. Several regions have signed cooperation agreements aiming to support the smaller municipalities which have joined the Covenant. It has attracted interest from outside the EU. Thus, Switzerland, Norway, Ukraine, Croatia, Armenia, Argentina, New Zealand and towns and cities from other countries have also signed. This growing interest has occurred in the context of the preparation of the COP-15 which took place in Copenhagen. The work aiming to extend the Covenant to other regions will continue.

With the adoption of the new Directive on renewable energy in 2009, a new legislative framework has been established for renewable energy use in electricity production and heating (or cooling), in transport and in buildings. The Directive sets a binding 20% target for renewable energy use and a target of a 10% share renewables in transport in the EU by 2020. The higher use of renewable energy sources in heating and cooling and in the supply of electricity will lead to lower emissions in urban areas, improving the urban environment and people's health as well as the possibility of creating local employment.

Regional and local authorities will have a strong role to play in national policies to implement these targets, including by contributing to the development of National Renewable energy action plans that Member States are obliged to prepare as required in the Directive. In its roadmap for renewable energy resources that the Commission adopted in January 2007, the role played by regional and local authorities is highlighted.

The following actions have been or will be launched:

- Finance for pilot projects which respond to specific priority questions, namely travel by bicycle and on foot, the carriage of goods, green areas and actions aiming to promote public transport.
- A website aimed at assisting public authorities in their purchase of clean and fuel-efficient vehicles, such as cleaner buses for their public transport fleets. This site provides information and advice for ecological public procurement, tools for the calculation of lifetime costs on the and help on organising joint public procurement.
- The website also contains information on legislation and on financing in the field of urban mobility. The Commission intends to make it a reference site for information concerning EU actions and financial support in the field of urban mobility.

⁵⁰ www.eumayors.eu

- A Commission study on the possibilities of increasing the interoperability of public transport systems, for example thanks to improvements in information and in intelligent ticketing.
- A study on "green areas". The results of this study should enable towns and cities to find solutions corresponding to their needs and which strengthen environmental protection while also guaranteeing freedom of movement, without discrimination, for all the inhabitants of the European Union.

Further, a proposal for a Directive on energy efficiency of buildings could also have an impact on the implementation of the new measures "As from 30 June 2014", Member States would not consider incentives for construction or the modernisation of buildings or of parts of buildings which do not achieve energy performance levels "equivalent to that resulting from the calculation referred to in Article 5(2)".

6.2. Funding

6.2.1 Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities

The FP7 specific programme "Cooperation" supports transnational cooperation in defined areas. It supports demonstration projects to promote energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources (RES) through the "Energy" research theme. For more general information on the FP7, see chapter 4.

The "Energy" research theme

Specific areas considered for funding under this theme include: research on renewable energy technology (for electricity generation, heating and cooling and transport fuel) and low CO₂ emitting power generation (CO₂ capture and storage and clean coal technologies) as well as smart energy networks, energy efficiency technologies, development models to assess the main economic and social issues related to energy technologies, hydrogen and fuel cells.

Beneficiaries

Consortia including public and private partners such as local authorities, companies, universities, research centres, organisations or individuals.

The CONCERTO initiative

The CONCERTO initiative is financed through the "Energy" research theme. It aims to demonstrate the economic, environmental and social benefits of integrating renewable energy sources together with energy efficiency techniques through a sustainable energy-management system operated at a community level. The CONCERTO initiative provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences between all the CONCERTO demonstration communities and other cities that are committed to introducing similar strategies. Participating communities will benefit from the shared expertise of Europe's most advanced communities, active in the field of energy sustainability.

Eligible actions

Projects expected to be supported will have to articulate integration of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, in order to achieve a significant increase of the share of renewable energy sources supply (green electricity, heating/cooling etc.) simultaneously with the reduction of energy demand and overall management of energy. Types of actions envisaged include:

- Eco-buildings integrating onsite renewable energy sources with energy-efficient building design and management,
- Poly-generation, combined heat and power (cogeneration) and district heating (ideally using bio-mass),
- Intelligent management of demand,
- Local distribution grids and distributed generation,
- Actions to tackle the issue of efficient energy storage in order to cover variability of renewable energy sources supply.

CONCERTO projects strive not only to conduct research, but most importantly to further develop and implement ways of boosting, encouraging and increasing the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures and to make these visible to a wider European audience.

Beneficiaries

Since the implementation of a CONCERTO project requires strong commitments from local authorities, local market actors and decision-makers, evidence of such commitments should be included in the projects. Apart from the above, CONCERTO consortia typically include: utilities, energy technology/service providers, building companies/housing associations, socio-economist consultants for the relevant studies, energy users and associated communities.

Budget

For the previous periods, EUR 141 million supported 58 projects for CONCERTO 1 and 83 for CONCERTO 2 (for which the contracts are still under preparation).

Intelligent Energy Europe Programme

The IEE Programme is a specific programme under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP),⁵¹ as the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, the ICT Policy Support Programme. The CIP will provide funding for actions to enhance competitiveness and innovation, complementing the research-oriented activities promoted by the FP7. The IEE Programme is a non-technological programme in the field of energy, focusing on the removal of market barriers, changing behaviour, creating a more favourable business environment for increasing energy efficiency and renewables markets, and making EU energy policy better understood and implemented in Europe's cities and regions.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

⁵¹ Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013), OJ L 310/15 of 9.11.2006.

The IEE Programme includes a number of fields specific to urban issues, such as the Sustainable Energy Communities, the European Networking for Local Action and the Clean Urban Transport key actions. Urban issues also appear in other fields, such as the support for the creation of local and regional energy agencies or the support for small-scale decentralised renewable energy concepts. Work programmes are prepared annually; there is a growing tendency to give more attention to urban issues. The IEE programme also finances some of the services and facilities offered by the Commission to the cities adhering to the Covenant of Mayors, such as Covenant of Mayors Office and a Technical Assistance Facility managed by the EIB whose aim is to facilitate loan funding for cities implementing sustainable energy investments in the context of the Covenant of Mayors. Finally, the programme also finances the ManagEnergy⁵² initiative, whose aim is to support the work of actors working on energy efficiency and renewable energies at the local and regional level. The main tools are web portals, training, workshops and online events.

Eligible actions

The IEE programme does not fund technical research projects. It acts rather as a catalyst for socio-economic, market, regulatory, policy and institutional changes. Actions funded under IEE programme aim to increase the level of investment in new and best performing technologies and to increase the uptake and demand for energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and energy diversification, including in transport, through awareness and knowledge raising among key actors in the EU (e.g. international transfer of experience, promotion of best practices, education and training, institutional capacity building, dissemination of information, results and know-how, actions related to the market replication, creation of new standards and norms, etc.).

A relevant part of the available budget is allocated to support the development of financial instruments adapted to the needs of the cities and regions and to smooth the concession of loans those investing in sustainable energy.

Beneficiaries

Any organisations, such as public and private partners (public authorities, industry, energy and transport agencies, transport operators, educational institutions, civil society, utilities, manufactures, market analysts, financial institutions, farmers etc.). For the projects funded under calls for proposals, a minimum of three partners should participate with objectives that have a European-wide impact.

The technical assistance facility operated by the EIB will be open only to local and regional authorities.

Management and budget

Most of the budget of the IEE programme is managed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI). The EACI launches annual calls for proposals. Furthermore the Commission and the EACI launch a number of calls for tenders covering the strategic studies and initiatives related to the preparation and implementation of the EU

⁵² www.managenergy.net

sustainable energy policy. Calls for proposals and calls for tenders are based on the priorities adopted by the Commission in the annual IEE work programmes.

The total budget for the IEE Programme for the period 2007-2013 is EUR 730 million. Specific actions to be supported and the annual budget in the framework of the IEE Programme are detailed in the annual IEE Work Programmes published each year.

6.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC

The Buildings Platform is an information service for helping the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) by setting up mechanisms for the transfer of information between all stakeholders and by coordinating the activities of the various stakeholders via the platform services:

<http://www.buildingsplatform.org/>

Energy Performance of Buildings Concerted Action promotes dialogue and exchange of best practice between the EU countries. An intensely active forum of national authorities from 29 countries, it focuses on finding common approaches to the most effective implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD):

<http://www.epbd-ca.org/>

In the framework of the Covenant of Mayors, an ambitious platform for comparison and exchange of information is being constructed. This will consist not just of information on action plans in favour of sustainable energy proposed by the towns concerned, but also covering standards of excellence. Its development will continue via the organisation of a series of events taking place during the year.

www.eumayors.eu

Working group on standardisation related to EPBD, organised by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN). The network is made up of public authorities, research institutes, universities as well as manufacturers:

www.cen.eu

The **Concerted Action for the Energy Services Directive (CA ESD)** provides a structured framework for the exchange of information between the 27 Member States and Croatia during their implementation of the Energy Services Directive (ESD). This active forum will enable each Member State to share its knowledge and experience, and draw on that of others, in order to adopt the most successful approaches towards implementing the Directive and avoid any pitfalls highlighted by others.

Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign is a public communication initiative in the framework of the Intelligent Energy Europe programme among individuals and organisations, private companies and public authorities, professional and energy agencies, industry associations and NGOs across Europe. It is also the basis for the EU Sustainable Energy Week:

www.sustenergy.org

www.eusew.eu

ManagEnergy Initiative aims to support the work of actors working on energy efficiency and renewable energies at the local and regional level by providing information, training workshops, case studies, good practice and a partner search system with some 2,700

organisations, including 350 energy agencies, which can provide valuable expertise and partnerships on energy activities at local and regional levels: www.managenergy.net
The **GreenLight Programme** is a voluntary pollution prevention initiative encouraging non-residential electricity consumers (public and private) to commit towards the European Commission to install energy-efficient lighting technologies in their facilities:
<http://www.eu-greenlight.org/>

6.4. Information sources

Websites

DG TREN - Energy:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/index_en.htm

Full video coverage of major European energy interviews, events and programme information days is available on the Commission ManagEnergy Broadcast Portal:

http://www.managenergy.tv/me_portal/mst/12/

Publications

Leaflet Intelligent Energy Europe:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/library/doc/leaflet_en.pdf

Brochure on electricity from renewable energy sources:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/publications/doc/2004_brochure_green_en.pdf

Brochure on promoting biofuels in Europe:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/publications/doc/2004_brochure_biofuels_en.pdf

FP7 contact point:

TREN-UNIT-D1@ec.europa.eu

FP7 website (for documents, work programme, call for proposals) and updated information:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

CONCERTO: For the relevant documents (work programme and call for proposals) and updated information (such as contact points) on the Concerto Initiative:

<http://www.concertoplus.eu/>

Concerto brochure:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/fp6_projects/doc/concerto/brochure/concerto_brochure.pdf

Intelligent Energy Europe Programme

For the relevant documents (work programme, calls for proposals, calls for tenders, user manual), overview of the ongoing and new projects in the pipeline updated information on the IEE Programme and related initiatives, consult the websites:

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/>

The Covenant of Mayors:

<http://www.eumayors.eu/>

Text of the Covenant of Mayors:

http://www.eumayors.eu/library/documents_en.htm#

Brochure:

http://www.eumayors.eu/mm/staging/library/com_brochure.pdf

7. Information and communication technologies for transport

7.1. Policy background and urban issues

Modern society depends heavily on mobility as it provides personal freedom and access to services for business and leisure. The demand for transport services has grown steadily for both passengers and goods in the last decades, and it is predicted that this demand will continue to grow rapidly in the future. The rising volumes of traffic, the status of the infrastructure and the limited resources in energy make the problems caused by road transport even worse, including the congestion of urban areas, harmful effects on the environment and public health, waste of energy and above all, accidents which cause fatalities, injuries and material damage.

On the other hand, the rapid and growing development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) allows the creation of more efficient and personalised services, fitting in more effectively with new needs and habits.

ICT provide a set of tools that can help to solve transport-related problems. ICT-based systems provide new, intelligent solutions which are beneficial to transport authorities, traffic management centres, drivers and all categories of transport users.

Past and current initiatives

In the Communication on the intelligent car initiative "Raising awareness of ICT for smarter, safer and cleaner vehicles",⁵³ the Commission proposed several actions to tackle the problems caused by road transport. The communication highlighted the need for a comprehensive European approach to ensure interoperability and the harmonisation of technical solutions throughout the Union. In addition to standardisation and in line with the ongoing work on co-operative systems, public authorities, cities and regions have a particular role in the implementation of the appropriate infrastructures, including intelligent features, and putting forward targeted actions enabling the wider deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems.

The Commission's i2010 initiative,⁵⁴ and specifically its third pillar "Inclusive European Information Society", was launched to promote economic growth and jobs in a manner that is consistent with sustainable development and that prioritises public services and quality of life. To raise the visibility of the potential of ICT with regard to quality of life, the Commission launched flagship ICT initiatives on key social challenges. One of the three priorities is the "Intelligent Car" flagship initiative on safe and clean transport, addressing the problems caused by increased road use. It consists of three "parts":

- Policy actions such as the eSafety forum: the purpose is to gather all stakeholders (Industry, national and local authorities, universities and laboratories, etc.) around specific thematic and concrete actions,

⁵³ COM(2006) 59 final.

⁵⁴ Communication of the Commission "i2010 – A European Information Society for growth and employment", COM(2005) 229 final.

Also see the website on I2010 and Digital Divide that covers issues related to the regional dimension of the information society:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/i2010/digital_divide/index_en.htm

- Research actions through Framework Programmes: the development of new strategies is linked to research, demonstration and implementation of advanced technologies,
- Awareness-raising actions (specific events, campaigns, publicity, etc.): the changes happen only when things are known. To see the benefits of the new technologies they have to be adopted by the population. This third part of the initiative aims at disseminating information.

7.2. Funding

7.2.1 Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities

The FP7 specific programme "Cooperation" aims to support transnational cooperation between relevant stakeholders on defined areas, including related urban areas such as ICT. For general information on the FP7, see chapter 4 "The European Research and Development Policy".

Projects on ICT for transport may be financed under the priority ICT meeting societal challenges for mobility and environment within the "Information and Communication Technologies" research theme.

The following themes were identified for calls for proposals during 2007 and 2008:

- Intelligent Vehicle Systems, such as Advanced Driver Assistance Systems, Collision Mitigation and Avoidance, etc.;
- Mobility Services for people and goods, including traveller information systems, covering all modes of transport and also public transport (timetables, parking, fee collection for public transport and parking etc.);
- Co-operative systems (based on vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication) to improve traffic efficiency and safety, highly relevant to the urban environment. The participation of cities, public authorities and infrastructure owners is encouraged;
- Field operational tests to collect real traffic data about the impact of Intelligent Vehicle Systems, mainly in terms of safety but also of traffic efficiency.

Eligible beneficiaries

Cities and regions suffering from congestion, pollution and traffic accidents are welcome to take part in these research projects and tests, to contribute to the development of user-friendlier urban transport and to provide the benefits of such systems to the citizens. Participants must form a consortium.

Further information

Contact point:

INFSO-G4@ec.europa.eu

For the relevant documents (annual work programme, calls for proposals, etc.) and updated information on the ICT part of the FP7, consult the Website:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

7.2.2 ICT Policy Support Programme

The ICT Policy Support Programme is financed under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP),⁵⁵ as the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme and the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. The CIP provides funding for actions to enhance competitiveness and innovation, complementing the research-oriented activities promoted by FP7.

The ICT policy support programme aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and business and in particular SMEs. The approach is based on leveraging innovation in response to growing societal demands.

Management

The ICT Policy Support Programme is managed by the European Commission (Information Society and Media DG) that launches call for proposals.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

In the 2007 call for proposals, Objective 4.3: "Intelligent Cars Awareness Action" aimed at accelerating the take-up and best use of new ICT-based Intelligent Vehicle Systems for safer, more efficient and more environmentally friendly transport and mobility services. This will support the i2010 Intelligent Car initiative⁵⁶.

Eligible actions

This call for proposals was intended to support a thematic network that will bring together the relevant stakeholders in Europe, including but not limited to Member States at national, regional and city level, automotive and telecommunications industries, research institutes, service providers, road authorities and operators, driving schools and the insurance sector. The network will interface with all interested Commission departments.

In future calls other instruments will be requested, like Pilot A and/or B actions⁵⁷.

Activities will include the exchange of best practice in domains such as public procurement (including pre-commercial procurement), user awareness actions and information campaigns, and methods for impact assessment. The Network should also help establish durable cooperation between groups of stake holders (e.g. road operators). It should also bring together experts in clean and efficient mobility, in order to provide a road-map on the use of ICT for improving energy efficiency in transport.

⁵⁵ Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013).

⁵⁶ Commission Communication on the Intelligent Car Initiative: "Raising Awareness of ICT for Smarter, Safer and Cleaner Vehicles"

⁵⁷ Website: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/about/implementation/index_en.htm

Eligible beneficiaries

Private and public entities at local and regional level can participate in calls for proposals issued under the programme.

Budget

The planned budget for the whole ICT Policy Support Programme is EUR 728 million. The budget allocated to the thematic network as described above is comprised between EUR 300 000 and EUR 500 000.

Further information

Contact point: INFSO-G4@ec.europa.eu

7.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC

The eSafety Forum is a joint platform involving all the road safety stakeholders, including cities and regions. It aims to promote and support the development, deployment and use of intelligent integrated road safety systems:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/esafety/index_en.htm

Member States, regional and local authorities and the Commission will explore together innovative methods of using coordinated pre-commercial public procurement (e.g. for establishing the conditions for technical interoperability and sustainable exploitation of ICT products and services for the ageing society). Local and regional authorities can have a prominent role in the use of this tool through their standard public procurement activities.

7.4. Further information

For all relevant information on this chapter, contact:

INFSO-G4@ec.europa.eu

Websites

The eSafety website provides information as well as links to the existing projects and other activities:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/programmes/esafety/index_en.htm

Information Society and Media DG and ICT research in FP7:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/research/eu_research/fp7_ist/index_en.htm

Information Society Portal:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/index_en.htm

EU i2010 portal:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/index_en.htm

Community Guidelines for the application of State aid rules in relation to rapid deployment of broadband networks:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/specific_rules.html#broadband

European Broadband Portal:
<http://www.broadband-europe.eu/Pages/Home.aspx>

8. Information and communication technologies for an inclusive society

8.1. Policy background and urban issues

In the context of an ageing and increasingly diversified society, especially in urban areas, Europe is fostering policies and initiatives favouring the broadest social participation and inclusion. Information society services have a high potential for social and economic inclusion, especially if coupled with the activation of the local and urban dimensions.

Past and current initiatives

The 2005 Communication from the Commission "i2010, a European Information Society for growth and employment"⁵⁸ defines as one of its three objectives "an Information Society that is inclusive, provides high quality public services and promotes quality of life". This may be achieved notably through the promotion of eGovernment, eInclusion and eHealth services.

In the eGovernment i2010 Action Plan⁵⁹ and the Manchester Ministerial Declaration⁶⁰, the Commission and the Member States commit themselves to focusing on a limited number of major objectives: services for all citizens, citizen participation in democratic decision-making, high impact flagship services for citizens and businesses, efficiency and effectiveness, and key enablers such as electronic identification for public services.

As reflected in the i2010 initiative and in the Riga Ministerial Declaration on "ICT for an Inclusive Society", ICT has also a huge potential for social inclusion. The Riga Ministerial Declaration set out a number of targets to enhance social inclusion in the information society in terms of internet usage for groups at risk of exclusion, such as older people and people with disabilities; increased broadband coverage; accessibility of all public websites; actions in the field of digital literacy and skills; recommendations on accessibility standards and common approaches to be used in public procurement; the possibility of legislative measures in the field of e-Accessibility.

Policies and activities for e-Health⁶¹ aim at promoting quality of life for citizens and patients, independent living, and mobility, and foster the development of ICT systems, tools and services for better access to care, better safety and quality of care, and increased efficiency in the delivery of care.

The 2007 Communication from the Commission "Ageing Well in the Information Society" sets out a European Action Plan to respond to the needs of Europe's growing ageing population. This Action Plan is accompanied by a joint European research programme in ICT targeted at improving the life of older people at home, in the workplace and in society in general. These EU initiatives will contribute to allowing older Europeans to stay active for

⁵⁸ COM(2005) 229 final.

Also see the website on I2010 and Digital Divide that covers issues related to the regional dimension of the information society:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/i2010/digital_divide/index_en.htm

⁵⁹ COM(2006) 173 final.

⁶⁰ <http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/egov2005conference/documents/proceedings/pdf/051124declaration.pdf>

⁶¹ eHealth Action Plan, COM (2004) 356.

longer and live independently. Together they promise a triple win for Europe: improved quality of life and social participation for older people in Europe, new business opportunities for Europe's industries and more efficient and more personalised health and social services.

In all areas of eInclusion, eHealth and eGovernment, the Commission is supported by the Member States in the exchange of good practices and alignment of policies through specific groups of experts (i2010 Sub-Groups) gathering Member State representatives.

In these areas, Member States and regional authorities should use the existing Public Procurement Directives to help stimulate market understanding and demand. They should also actively encourage the use of current Electronic Accessibility standards (eAccessibility) in appropriate public procurement requirements and specifications to make ICT services friendly to disadvantaged categories (e.g. people with disabilities or the ageing population).

The 2008 e-Inclusion initiative show-cased practical results of inclusion (including at the local and urban level) into the information society through more than 50 local and national events, culminating in the 2008 Ministerial Conference and exhibition in Vienna. The specific needs for e-Accessibility were further addressed in the communication from the Commission "Towards an accessible information society".⁶² The 'i2010 e-inclusion sub-group' prepared in mid-2009 a report on future policy priorities in the area of e-inclusion ('the Limassol report')⁶³.

Forthcoming initiatives

In its efforts to establish coherent strategies towards inclusion, Information Society and Media DG is launching:

- A public consultation on the replacement for the "i2010, a European Information Society for growth and employment"
- Strategic activities aiming to ensure interoperability⁶⁴ of e-Health systems in order to guarantee continuity of healthcare (such as hospital care, primary and home care and cross-border care arrangements). The epSOS project,⁶⁵ began in 2008, concerns 12 Member States working with centres of competence via their respective health ministries and over 30 industrial partners.
- Strategic activities aiming to promote the development of the e-Health market in Europe thanks to the "Lead Market initiative" through innovation, increased economic advantages and the development of the quality of health products and services⁶⁶.
- A new policy initiative entitled "ICT for Sustainable Growth" which aims to issue an action plan on ICT for environmental sustainability and growth, encompassing policy, research and awareness-raising activities in three domains: building an integrated European information space for

⁶² [COM/2008/0804]

⁶³ http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/groups/limassol/index_en.htm

⁶⁴ The need to develop the exchange of data between different health systems (local, national and cross-border)

⁶⁵ <http://www.epsos.eu>

⁶⁶ <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/leadmarket/ehealth.htm>;
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/health/docs/publications/lmi-report-final-2007dec.pdf

environmental monitoring; enabling more effective management of emergencies and disasters; and improving energy efficiency.

8.2. Funding - Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7)

The FP7 specific programme "Cooperation" aims to support transnational cooperation between relevant stakeholders in defined areas, including related urban areas such as ICT. For more general information on the FP7, see chapter 4.

Projects on ICT for an inclusive society may be financed under the priority "ICT meeting societal challenges" within the "Information and Communication Technologies" research theme. It concerns more particularly the following areas:

- **e-Health:** a specific challenge addressing RTD activities on ICT for sustainable and personalised healthcare, illness prevention and safety of care. A showcasing of achievements in the field of research for e-Health in the area of personal health systems. A number of activities are also aimed at informing appropriate constituencies on research possibilities in the first call for proposals of the Seventh Research Framework Programme.
- **e-Inclusion:** a specific challenge addressing RTD activities on ICT for Ageing and Inclusion. ICT offers important means to address the problems associated with the ageing population such as the associated rise in the number of people with high disability rates,⁶⁷ fewer family carers, and a smaller productive workforce. One focus area will be RTD to mainstream and radically improve the accessibility and usability of new ICT solutions. Another focus area will be RTD on ICT-based solutions to help offset the impact of the ageing population, significantly prolonging independent living and increasing active participation in the economy and in society.
- **Ambient Assisted Living:**⁶⁸ EU level activities under the social inclusion challenge are complemented by a major initiative, bringing together the research programmes of Member States with support from FP7 for creation of new large-scale trans-national collaboration on applied RTD for "Ambient Assisted Living". This initiative issues calls for proposals and provides funding for applied research projects involving different European partners, including cities and other actors of urban development in the field of ICT for independent living and well-being. The total budget over the period of 2007-2013 is EUR 600 million.
- **Sustainable Growth:** a specific objective addressing RTD activities on ICT for Environmental Management and Energy Efficiency. Its aims are: to create an integrated environmental information space in which institutions, service providers and citizens access and share available information, thus enhancing capacity to assess population exposure and health risks, to alert targeted

⁶⁷ Age and disability are strongly correlated: 15% of the EU population has a disability; 70% of them will be over 60 by 2020.

⁶⁸ Website: <http://www.aal169.org/>

groups and to organise efficient response; and to improve energy efficiency via ICT-enabled solutions in support of Europe's objective to save 20% of energy consumption by 2020, to enable future buildings to become energy-neutral and to reduce personal energy usage.

Beneficiaries

Research on innovative ICTs for health, ageing and inclusion will require a multi-disciplinary and user-centred approach combining advanced technology research and user acceptance. In these two themes, research and innovation activities require large user involvement at local level. The role of intermediaries (e.g. social care services, local authorities, regional health authorities) is a key asset for the success of this type of research directed to the final user.

Further information

Contact points and websites for the relevant documents (annual work programme, calls for proposals, etc.) and updated information on the programme:

For e-Inclusion:

info-h3@ec.europa.eu

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/einclusion

For e-Health:

info-h1@ec.europa.eu

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/qualif/health/index_en.htm

See also the Website:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

8.2.1 ICT Policy Support Programme

- The ICT Policy Support Programme is financed under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP),⁶⁹ as the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme and the Energy Intelligent Europe Programme. The CIP will provide funding for actions to enhance competitiveness and innovation, complementing the research-oriented activities promoted by the FP7.
- The Programme aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and business and in particular SMEs. The approach is based on leveraging innovation in response to growing societal demands. The ICT-PSP will support actions to demonstrate practical benefits of ICT for social inclusion.

Management

The ICT Policy Support Programme is managed by the European Commission (Information Society and Media DG) which launches calls for proposals.

⁶⁹ Decision n° 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013). http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_310/l_31020061109en00150040.pdf

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

The main strands for the CIP actions address the following questions:

- ICT for ageing, independent living; and accessibility of ICT;
- eGovernment services;
- eHealth⁷⁰

Eligible actions

The programme covers the launch of:

- Pilot projects for demonstration purposes and benchmarking activities favouring uptake of innovative services and technologies,
- Measures aiming at fostering replication of successful projects,
- Exploratory studies (e.g. on social capital),
- Activities for the identification and the exchange of good practices between relevant stakeholders,
- Awareness campaigns.

Eligible beneficiaries

Private and public entities at local and regional level (e.g. city councils, social and health care providers) can participate in calls for proposals issued under the programme. The local and urban involvement is particularly relevant to demonstrate practical benefits deriving from these innovative technologies, to favour their uptake among different societal groups, and to enable the replication of successful experiences.

Budget

The planned budget for the whole ICT Policy Support Programme is €728 million. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

8.3. Exchanges and best practice

A good practice portal, addressing e-Inclusion, e-Government and e-Health areas and enables users to **Share** their real-life experiences by publishing them on the site; **Meet** counterparts from across Europe and expand their professional networks by creating a personal profile; **Learn** from the experience of others, rate and comment on published cases:

<http://www.epractice.eu/>

The portal facilitates the search for best practice, networks, projects and cases at local and regional level directly or indirectly linked with urban issues (e.g. urban innovation through the use of ICT, cadastre and geographic information systems, town planning, property registers etc.).

⁷⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/health/cip_ict_psp/index_en.htm

Member States, regional and local authorities and the Commission will explore together innovative methods of using coordinated pre-commercial public procurement (e.g. for establishing the conditions for technical interoperability and sustainable exploitation of ICT products and services for the ageing society). Local and regional authorities can have a prominent role in the use of this tool through their standard public procurement activities.

8.4. Further information sources

Websites

Information Society and Media DG and e-Inclusion Policy:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/einclusion

Information Society and Media DG and e-Health:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eHealth

Information Society and Media DG and ICT research in FP7:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/research/eu_research/fp7_ist/index_en.htm

For relevant documents (annual work programme, calls for proposals, etc.) and updated information on the programme, see:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

Information Society Portal: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/index_en.htm

EU i2010 portal: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/index_en.htm

Community Guidelines for the application of State aid rules in relation to rapid deployment of broadband networks:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/specific_rules.html#broadband

European Broadband Portal:

<http://www.broadband-europe.eu/Pages/Home.aspx>

Contact point for ICT Policy Support Programme

info-c2@ec.europa.eu

Publications

European Commission - Pre-Commercial Procurement of innovation. A Missing Link in the European Innovation Cycle, March 2006:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/research/key_docs/documents/procurement.pdf

Pre-commercial procurement "Public sector needs as a driver of innovation", September 2006:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/research/priv_invest/pcp/documents/pre_commercial_procurement_0906.pdf

9. Policies addressing enterprises

9.1. Policy background and urban issues

The urban area is a place of intensified business activity. It is a particular mix of people working in thousands of enterprises in a variety of sectors. Their activities in a natural way complement each other creating an economic potential of a local municipality. In order to fully use this opportunity it is extremely important to create a friendly environment for business, adapted to specific groups such as young or female entrepreneurs or those from disadvantaged groups, including ethnic minorities. In particular, craft and small and medium-sized enterprises and social enterprises are a key source of jobs and a breeding ground for business ideas.⁷¹ Small businesses are the main driver for innovation and employment as well as social and local integration in Europe. Urban areas are also a testimony for the cultural heritage of Europe, serving to stimulate the development of urban tourism.

Past and current initiatives

SMEs are indispensable for the delivery of stronger, lasting growth and more and better jobs. Furthermore, to revitalise the economy, Europe needs more people willing to become entrepreneurs, hence the importance of promoting entrepreneurial culture. Therefore, SME-friendly policies both at Community level and in Member States become even more important in unlocking the EU's potential. It is expected that local authorities will propose new actions to improve access to finance,⁷² to strengthen their capacity to sustain themselves in the market, to grow and to create jobs and new ways to enhance dialogue and consultation with SME stakeholders. By doing so, they support the implementation of the Lisbon Integrated Guidelines⁷³ and the Community Lisbon Programme.⁷⁴

Support to SMEs will be provided by the Community programmes for enterprise, i.e. the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). However, as SME policy is often translated by initiatives conceived and delivered at local and regional levels, other important sources of funding must be used, such as funds for Cohesion Policy. Structural funds are playing a key role in promoting entrepreneurship and skills and improving SMEs' growth potential, e.g. by supporting the technological development of SMEs, providing business support services, and strengthening SME cooperation. The Structural funds have provided around EUR 21 billion to SMEs in the period 2000-2006 and the orientations suggested in the Community Strategic Guidelines for cohesion reinforce this commitment.⁷⁵

City tourism is regarded as the fastest growing sector in Europe and a new phenomenon which increasingly contributes to local and regional economies. Addressing the varied challenges of tourism requires advancing knowledge and practice about how municipal governments and other stakeholders can work together in sustainable tourism development to promote participatory governance and ensure long-term local development. In its

⁷¹ Communication from the Commission: Implementing the Community Lisbon Programme: Modern SME Policy for Growth and Jobs, COM (2006) 033.

⁷² COM (2006) 349.

⁷³ Council Recommendation 2005/601/EC on the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States.

⁷⁴ COM(2005) 330.

⁷⁵ See the chapter in Part 1 on cohesion policy.

Communication on an “agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism”⁷⁶, the European Commission recognised the importance of “joint action at the destination level but within the context of supportive national and European policies and actions”⁷⁷ and set a framework for action inviting tourism stakeholders to accept their responsibilities at the levels where they mostly operate and to embrace the opportunities that the sustainability challenge offers as a potential driver for innovation and growth.

The importance in maintaining a future favourable environment at an urban level is crucial for the development of private sector. That's why the European Commission launched the Urban Atlas initiative within the context of GMES. This Global Monitoring for Environment and Security initiative started back in 1998 combining data from multiple sources such as satellites, ground based, sea-borne and airborne facilities. The GMES initiative comprises services aimed at **monitoring Earth sub-systems**:

- **Land** (land cover / land use, urban planning, water services, soil erosion, nature protection, etc.)
- **Ocean** (maritime safety, oil spill monitoring, water quality and ecosystems)
- **Atmosphere** (ozone depletion, air quality, UV radiation, greenhouse gases)

Furthermore, GMES comprises services addressing emergency issues in particular in support to the intervention of Civil Protections in disaster events.

The Urban Atlas initiative will provide for the first time a consistently comparable land-cover/land use information base for 300 major cities over Europe. Together with the statistical information from the Urban Audit, it will help city planners to better assess risks and opportunities, ranging from threat of flooding and impact of climate change, to identifying new infrastructure and public transport needs.

The services are initiated through Framework Programme 7 projects. These research projects are evaluated through an open call for tender, hence providing further interesting opportunities for SMEs.

9.2. Funding: Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme is financed under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP),⁷⁸ as the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme and the ICT Policy Support Programme. The CIP provides funding for actions to enhance competitiveness and innovation, complementing the research-oriented activities promoted by the FP7.

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme. (EIP) aims to help SMEs innovate by providing:

⁷⁶ COM(2007) 621 final of 19.10.2007

⁷⁷ COM(2007) 621 final of 19.10.2007, p. 7

⁷⁸ Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013).

- Better access to finance for SMEs through venture capital investment and loan guarantee instruments;
- Business and innovation support services delivered through a network of regional centres;
- Promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Support for eco-innovation;
- Support for policy-making that encourages entrepreneurship and innovation.

Urban dimension of the EIP

The Enterprise Europe Network, which is the largest European business support network offering a broad range of services tailored for SMEs in the EU and beyond is available locally to SMEs. The Network is active in more than 40 countries, including all EU 27 countries. Information and a complete list of countries covered as well as the locations of centres can be found on the Network website (see 9.4. below).

The Network consists of highly specialised organisations with a proven capacity in business support that have been chosen for their strong links with SMEs and their expertise. The main services from which SMEs can benefit in practice and which are offered by the partners of the Network are the following:

- Information on EU legislation, standards and major policies at European level;
- Guide to funding opportunities and EU programmes (including the EU Research Programmes);
- Information about business cooperation opportunities within the Single Market and in third countries;
- Innovation support through advanced technology transfer services, trans-national technology cooperation and brokerage services;

The EIP Financial Instruments, which are managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF) are available via financial intermediaries such as banks and venture capital funds in the different Member States and participating countries. The list of financial intermediaries can be found on:

<http://www.access2finance.eu/>

Eligible actions

The actions of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme are published in the annual EIP work programmes. Where relevant, more detailed information on actions is included in the calls announced in the work programme. These documents can be consulted on the CIP website (see point 9.4, below).

Beneficiaries

Between 2007 and 2013, the CIP will give support to some 350 000 small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in all forms of innovation and growth.

In case of calls for proposals or calls for tender, the eligible beneficiaries are specified in the calls which is published by the Commission. Regarding the services provided by Enterprise Europe Network, all kind of enterprises can benefit.

Budget

The CIP has a budget of EUR 3.6 billion for the period 2007-2013 of which the indicative budgetary allocation for the EIP is 60%. There is no specific allocation for urban development projects.

Further information

The CIP website contains relevant documents and other updated information on the Programme:

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm

9.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme supports networking and exchange of best practices for innovation practitioners in different sectors. For more information:

<http://www.europe-innova.org>

The European Charter for Small Enterprises Website provides a report on 2006 good practice selection:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/charter/index_en.htm

"Good practices in the promotion of female entrepreneurship, examples from Europe and other OECD countries":

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/craft/craft-women/documents/study-female-entrepreneurship-en.pdf>

9.4. Further information

Websites

The CIP:

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm

The Enterprise Europe Network:

http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

Support to eco-innovation pilot and market replication projects:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/index_en.htm

Financial instruments: to find the financial intermediaries in your country:

<http://www.access2finance.eu/>

For more information on access to finance:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/finance/index_en.htm

Support to innovation:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/index_en.htm

The Portal for SMEs contains more information on funding opportunities and other information on EU policies for SMEs:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sme/>

Commission's actions to support entrepreneurship and SME policy:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/index_en.htm

Practical information on running a business in the EU:

<http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/nav/en/business/home.html>

For European Investment Bank activity in favour of SMEs:

<http://www.eib.org/site/index.asp?designation=sme>

For tourism:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tourism/index_en.htm

Publications

“A guide to SME policy”, Enterprise and Industry DG, June 2006:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/docs/facts_en.pdf

"Feasibility and preparatory study regarding a Multi-stakeholder European Targeted Action for Sustainable Tourism & Transport", Enterprise and Industry DG, October 2004:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/services/tourism/doc/studies/towards_quality_tourism_rural_urban_coastal/iqm_urban_en.pdf

"Towards Quality Urban Tourism: Integrated quality management (IQM) of urban tourist destinations", Enterprise and Industry DG, 2000:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/library/lib-tourism/iqm-summary/urban_en.pdf

10. The urban dimension of EU culture policy

10.1. Policy background and urban issues

The cities of Europe, which bring together a large number of cultural amenities (museums, libraries, theatres, art centres, artists' studios and centres in which to learn and practise art and culture, etc.) are important places for artistic creation and the dissemination of cultural works and productions. The presence of these cultural institutions is one of the prime factors for the development of tourism. A proactive cultural supply policy provides a city with an edge as a cultural tourism venue, which is a driving force for the economic development of an area.

The growth and attractiveness of cities also requires that their cultural and artistic fabric be maintained and even strengthened, as well as the presence of creative industries, which directly and indirectly are major sources of jobs with high added value. But it is above all the "creative communities" gathering around these cultural industries, the active participants in information and communication technologies, research and finance, which allow the emergence of true centres for innovation and competitiveness.

The attractiveness of cities also depends on improvements in architectural quality, a key factor for social cohesion, especially in urban areas in crisis, as it contributes to a better quality of life for their inhabitants. Rehabilitation of the urban environment and the preservation of historical and cultural heritage are therefore vital components of integrated urban strategies.

The city is also a multicultural place par excellence. Public spaces, public transport, schools, universities, but also work are all meeting places for a diversified population of different nationalities, religions and social backgrounds.

10.2. Funding

10.2.1 Culture Programme

The Culture Programme⁷⁹ (2007-2013) provides considerable support for actions taking place in cities or those promoted by municipalities. The programme aims to enhance the idea of a "European cultural area" and is based on a common cultural heritage through the development of cultural cooperation between artists, cultural players and cultural institutions of the countries taking part in the programme, with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship. The following specific objectives are pursued:

- to promote the trans-national mobility of cultural players;
- to encourage the trans-national circulation of works and artistic and cultural products;
- to encourage inter-cultural dialogue.

⁷⁹ Decision No 1855/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 establishing the Culture Programme (2007 to 2013), OJ L 372/1 of 21.12.2006.

Management

The European Commission (Directorate-General for Education and Culture) is responsible for the Culture Programme, although most actions are managed on its behalf by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

Thematic priorities relating to urban issues

The Culture Programme goes beyond the sectoral approach adopted in the previous generations of cultural programmes and aims for an integrated approach to promote multi-disciplinary cooperation projects in all fields of heritage and artistic creation which have an impact on urban issues.

Eligible actions

The programme supports in particular cooperation projects between actors in the cultural sector, special actions (including “European Capitals of Culture”), the operation of bodies active at European level in the field of culture, as well as studies.

Beneficiaries

The programme is open to participation by all cultural actors. Cities are encouraged to participate.

Budget

A budget of EUR 400 million is available for 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

10.2.2 European Capitals of Culture

The ***European Capitals of Culture*** initiative receives support under the Culture Programme. It aims at enhancing the richness and diversity of European cultures and their common characteristics, to enhance European citizens’ knowledge of one another and to promote the awareness of belonging to the same "European" community. Since 1985, more than thirty cities have been designated European Capitals of Culture.

A report (see publications, below) shows that the title may act as a catalyst in the cultural development and transformation of a city. In general, the immediate socio-economic repercussions of the event are tourism-related, on the one hand, and directly related to the additional investments and expenditure made, on the other. Several cities awarded the title have developed a true urban regeneration strategy based on culture.

Selection procedure

Essen, Pécs and Istanbul will be European Capitals of Culture in 2010. As from 2011 and until 2019 two cities from 2 EU Member States will hold the title each year, in the chronological order established for the rotating Presidency of the European Union.

- 2011 Finland, Estonia

- 2012 Portugal, Slovenia
- 2013 France, Slovakia
- 2014 Sweden, Lithuania
- 2015 Belgium, Czech Republic
- 2016 Spain, Poland
- 2017 Denmark Cyprus
- 2018 Netherlands, Malta

The candidate cities for the title of Capital must submit a programme of cultural events for the year in question. This programme is assessed by an international panel on the basis of criteria which emphasise the European dimension of the event, as well as its attractiveness, visibility and the participation of the inhabitants. The event must also demonstrate long-term effects. The cities selected are designated by the Council. The Council has designated Turku and Tallinn as European Capitals for Culture in 2011, Guimaraes and Maribor in 2012 and Marseille and Kosice in 2013.

The selection process and the criteria are set out in the “Application Guide” for cities wishing to apply for the title of European Capital of Culture, available from:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/ecocs/cap_en.html

Budget

The Community contribution to the event amounts to EUR 1.5 million per Capital from 2007.

Further information

For the relevant documents (calls for proposals, guide for candidates) and any other information on the Culture Programme, including the "European Capitals of Culture" initiative, contact:

Eac-Culture@ec.europa.eu

National Culture contact points:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/culture2007/contacts/national_pts_en.html

Internet site:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index_en.html

10.2.3 European Year of Inter-cultural Dialogue (2008)

The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008)⁸⁰ aimed to raise awareness, in particular among young people, of the need to develop inter-cultural dialogue as the most relevant process to address and profit from an increasingly multi-cultural environment in European societies. The year resulted in highlighting inter-cultural dialogue within the framework of

⁸⁰ Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008), OJ L 412/44 of 30.12.2006.

different European policies and led to the adoption of the Council conclusions on the value of the inter-cultural dimension for the equitable development of European societies.

Management

Each Member State appointed a national coordination body, or an equivalent administrative body, responsible for organising that State's participation in the European Year 2008. The European Commission launched two calls for proposals. A total of 36 projects were financed at European and national level.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

Culture, education, youth, sport and citizenship represented the main implementation fields. The Inter-cultural Dialogue Year focussed on youth and had the objective of involving as many individuals as possible. The challenge consisted of introducing dialogue where it mattered most, that is to say in schools and education or training *fora*, at work but also in leisure, cultural, sports centres and civil society organisations.

Budget

The budget for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008 amounted to EUR 10 million.

Further information

For the relevant documents (results of calls for proposals, internet site for selected projects) and information on the follow-up of European Year for Inter-cultural Dialogue 2008, please contact:

Eac-Culture@ec.europa.eu

10.3. Information sources

Websites

The Directorate-General for Education and Culture and the European culture policy (information on the Culture Programme and the European Year of Inter-cultural Dialogue - 2008):

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Capitals of Culture:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc413_en.htm

Study on the economy of culture in Europe, 2006:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources_info/studies/economy_en.html

11. Policy for youth

11.1. Policy background and urban issues

A European policy in favour of young people must take account of the context in which they live. The White Paper "A new impetus for European youth" adopted by the Commission in November 2001⁸¹ stresses the importance of the local level as the starting point for the dynamics potentially leading to commitment to Europe: "It is on the ground, where young people can see the results of their personal commitment, that active citizenship becomes a reality." The 2009 Commission Communication "EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering"⁸² also underlines this need for action in local communities.

For the majority of young Europeans, this local level is the city, the geographical context for a large number of activities which affect young people directly or indirectly, by way of citizenship, employment, social inclusion, culture, environmental protection, and the fight against discrimination and violence.

Past and present initiatives

Community action in favour of young people is organised around the following two axes:

- development of policy initiatives;
- management of action programmes.

Political action consists of implementing reinforced cooperation between Member States in the framework of the Youth open method of coordination (OMC).

The 2009 Communication "Investing and Empowering" proposed a renewed cooperation strategy for the next 9 years (2010-2018). It will be based on the open method of coordination, as in the past cooperation cycle, but with a much stronger focus on cross-sectoral cooperation between youth policy and other policy areas.

The Commission proposes to develop cooperation in 8 'fields of action' encompassing education, employment, creativity and entrepreneurship, health and sport, participation, social inclusion, volunteering, and 'youth and the world' (mobilisation of youth for global causes). Cooperation will be based on tools such as peer-learning activities, structured dialogue with young people and their organisations, regular reporting, and development of youth research and data collection.

Through the adoption of the European Youth Pact in 2005, under the revised Lisbon strategy for competitiveness and employment, the Member States have undertaken to promote the integration of young people in professional life and society.

⁸¹ European Commission White Paper "A new impetus for European youth", COM(2001) 681 final.

⁸² Commission Communication "An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering – A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities" COM (2009) 200

11.2. Funding

Youth in Action (2007-2013)

The previous action programme in favour of young people, Youth, provided support for urban actions. It has been replaced for the period 2007-2013 by the Youth in Action programme.⁸³ This programme is not limited to urban themes, but does cover relevant issues.

The objectives of the Youth in Action programme are to promote active participation in society by young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, to develop their sense of solidarity and tolerance, to foster mutual understanding among young people, to contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and to promote political cooperation between the EU Member States in the field.

Management

The European Commission (Education and Culture DG) is responsible for managing this programme and has adopted a Programme Guide as a tool aimed at all who wish to participate. It includes all the information necessary, regarding priorities, actions and main characteristics of the programme as well as the criteria and conditions for participation. There are five annual cut-off dates for decentralised project selection (selection by the national agencies) and three annual cut-off dates for the centralised selection (selection by the Executive Agency). Occasionally, more specific calls for proposals are published.

The Commission relies mainly on a network of national agencies which are responsible for the management of the decentralised actions of the programme and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, which is responsible for managing centralised actions.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

Youth in Action consists of five actions, which enable themes corresponding to the programme priorities to be dealt with in various forms of activities:

- general priorities: European citizenship, participation by young people, cultural diversity, inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities;
- additional annual priorities in 2009: The European year of creativity and innovation, the active participation of the young in the European Parliamentary elections; combating violence against women; sport as a tool favouring active citizenship and the social inclusion of youth; the promotion of good lifestyles through the practice of physical activity, including sport, the promotion of the inclusion of young handicapped people, awareness-raising of citizens with respect to world-wide challenges (such as sustainable development and climate change), the participation of the young in the process of the revision of the European cooperation framework in the field of policies in favour of the young, and dialogue. The themes proposed may cover issues associated with urban problems.

⁸³ Decision No 1719/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 establishing the «Youth in Action» programme for the period 2007 to 2013, OJ L 327/30 of 24.11.2006.

- In 2007, a specific call for proposals concerning innovative projects related to the integration of young people with fewer opportunities living in European suburban areas. The duration of these projects was set at between 12 and 24 months so that some are still underway.

The five actions are the following:

- Action 1 "Youth for Europe" aims to reinforce the active commitment of young people by supporting exchanges, mobility, initiatives by young people and their participative democracy projects;
- Action 2 "European Voluntary Service" aims to develop solidarity and tolerance, active citizenship and mutual understanding by offering the possibility of participating in non-profit-making unpaid activity for the benefit of the community in another country;
- Action 3 "Youth in the World" encourages a spirit of openness to the world by developing cooperation with neighbouring partner countries of the enlarged EU or with other partner countries in the world;
- Action 4 "Youth Support Systems" supports in particular the development of training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations and projects encouraging innovation and quality;
- Action 5 "Support for policy cooperation" promotes cooperation in the field of youth policies and better knowledge of youth by supporting the exchange of good practices, cooperation between administrations and policy-makers, as well as structured dialogue between young people and policy-makers, by supporting activities to bring about a better knowledge of the field of youth and by supporting cooperation with international organisations

Eligible actions

- Mobility measures, especially exchanges of young people (international groups of young people between 13 and 25 years of age meet and participate in an activity programme) and the activities of the European Voluntary Service (which offers the opportunity for young people of between 18 and 30 years of age to participate in non-profit-making unpaid activity to the benefit of a community in another country for a period of up to 12 months);
- Youth projects, and especially "Initiatives by young people" (young people of 18 to 30 years of age devise and participate in activities which develop their spirit of initiative and enterprise, as well as their creativity) and participative democracy projects (aiming to promote active participation by individuals of between 13 and 30 years of age in the life of their community at local, regional or national level);
- Project supporting notably the development of networking of organisations and youth workers;
- Operating expenses of certain structures, especially international youth NGOs, which pursue a goal of general European interest and which offer activities contributing to the participation by young people in public life and society.

Beneficiaries

Organisations eligible to apply for a grant: various forms of organisations for young people – such as youth organisations, formal or informal groups of young people, public bodies involved in action for young people at local or regional level (including the youth departments of local authorities) or socio-educational instructors.

Youth are the final beneficiaries targeted by the programme, as participants in the activities proposed by the various types of organisations mentioned above.

For certain actions, Youth in Action is open to young people of 13 to 30 years of age, the target group of the programme being the age group from 15 to 28 years of age. The programme aims to obtain maximum participation and in particular seeks to involve young people with the fewest opportunities. Socio-educational instructors are also a target group of the programme.

Budget

A budget of EUR 885 million is available for 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

Further information

For the relevant documents (Programme Guide, calls for proposals) and any other information on the programme, contact:

Directorate-General for Education and Culture - Unit D.2 Youth Programmes:

Email EAC-youthinaction@ec.europa.eu

Internet site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/youth/>

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency - Youth (centralised projects of the programme):

Email youth@ec.europa.eu

Internet site:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php

National agencies (decentralised programme management):

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth/contacts_en.htm

11.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC

Examples of best practice:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/sharing-experience/all_experiences_en.htm

Thematic brochures on Youth in Action projects:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/sharing-experience/experience1291_en.htm

Compendium of projects, selected at European level:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/results_compendia/compendia_en.php

11.4. Information sources

Websites

Directorate-General for Education and Culture on youth policy and the Youth in Action Programme:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.html

European Youth portal. This Internet site provides relevant information on Europe for young people:

<http://europa.eu/youth>

Publications

Brochures, postcards and other publications:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/publ/youth_en.html

12. Education and training policies

12.1. Policy background and urban issues

The problems of "ghettoisation", as well as some other issues of social inclusion and education – for example problems related to school integration of pupils with a migrant background – are more important in cities than in rural areas.

Policy co-operation and programmes in the field of education and training do not have a primary focus on urban issues. Nevertheless, education and training are very relevant to urban development, and there are targeted measures in education and training which are specifically linked to the urban context. The "Education and Training 2010" work programme, which fosters co-operation among Member States through the open method of coordination, is currently focusing on early school leaving and on social inclusion through education.

There is also, for example, increasing concern about social inclusion and democratic citizenship in modern urban societies. This requires people to be informed and to actively engage themselves with the world around them.

In the fields of education and training, the European Commission can address these concerns via political cooperation with Member States and it funds specific projects via the Lifelong Learning Programme.

12.2. Funding: The Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013)

The European Commission funds a number of education and training projects under the sole heading of the *Lifelong Learning Programme*. The general objective of the programme is to contribute, through education and lifelong learning, to the development of the Union as an advanced knowledge society, characterised by sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and strengthened social cohesion, while fully ensuring a high level of environmental protection for future generations. In this context, the promotion and strengthening of learning opportunities for groups at risk, in particular for migrants, in relation to their social and cultural backgrounds, as well as the promotion of active participation for a democratic and inclusive society receive special attention.

Management

The European Commission (Education and Culture DG) is responsible for the management of the programme and the launch of calls for proposals. The Commission is supported by a network of national agencies, which are in charge of managing decentralised actions of the programme, and by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

The Lifelong Learning Programme fosters European co-operation in the field of education and training. Successful projects aim to enhance the transnational mobility of individuals, promote bilateral and multilateral partnerships, or improve quality in education and training systems through multilateral projects encouraging innovation, for example. The Lifelong Learning Programme is built on four pillars:

1. The **Comenius programme** addresses the teaching and learning needs of all those in pre-school and school education up to the level of the end of upper secondary education, and the institutions and organisations providing such education;
2. The **Erasmus programme** addresses the teaching and learning needs of all those in formal higher education, including transnational student placements in enterprise, and the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training;
3. The **Leonardo da Vinci** programme addresses the teaching and learning needs of all those in vocational education and training, including placement in enterprise of persons other than students, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training;
4. The **Grundtvig programme** addresses the teaching and learning needs of those in all forms of adult education, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education.

These four pillars are joined by a '**transversal programme**', which pursues key activities also relevant for urban communities, as education and training are crucial in urban policy: promotion of language learning; development of innovative ICT-based content, services, pedagogies and practice for lifelong learning; dissemination and exploitation of results of actions supported under the Lifelong Learning Programme and previous related programmes, and exchange of good practice.

Eligible actions

The main eligible actions supported by the programme are:

- mobility of individuals in lifelong learning;
- partnerships, projects and bi-lateral and multi-lateral networks;
- observation and analysis of policies and systems in the field of education and lifelong learning, as well as surveys, statistics and the analysis of indicators;
- making operating grants to certain institutions
- "accompanying measures".

Eligible beneficiaries

Depending on the type of action and on the sub-programme, the programme is opened to persons and bodies responsible for systems and policies concerning any aspect of lifelong learning at local, regional and national level; associations working in the field of lifelong learning, pupils, students, trainees and adult learners, etc.

It is equally addressed to specific target groups like for example favouring economic and social integration and combating socio-economic handicaps.

Budget

The overall programme budget will be EUR 6,970 million for the total period 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

Further information

For the relevant documents (work programme, calls for proposals, users' manual), and updated information on the programme, see:

Contact at the European Commission:

Education and Culture DG

Unit B1 - Coordination of Lifelong Learning Programme:

eac.uniteb1@ec.europa.eu

Contact at the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency:

E-mail: eacea-info@ec.europa.eu

Website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/llp>

12.3. Information sources

Websites

Education and Culture DG on Education:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.html

Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency:

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index.htm>

13. EU policy for active European citizenship

13.1. Policy background and urban issues

Active citizenship starts at local level. Such a basis offers the starting point for the dynamism that can lead to European engagement. In order to help bridge the gaps between citizens and the European Union, it is particularly important that European actions reach citizens in their everyday life, on issues that are of relevance to them.

For a great many European citizens, this local level is an urban one. Also the great majority of Commission's counterparts and stakeholders of the current and future programmes are based in cities.

Past and current initiatives

Town-twinning activities have the most pronounced urban dimension among all the actions supported by the Europe for Citizens Programme (2007-2013). Twinned municipalities are encouraged by European support to work together on themes that concern European citizens across the borders in order to foster their well-being and to contribute to strengthening mutual knowledge and understanding. Town-twinning is an exceptional tool for local development, contributing to helping citizens participate, discuss common concerns, learn about each other's best practices and find solutions together.

Fostering civil dialogue has been a priority of the European Commission for many years.

The Commission Communication of 2004 "Building our common Future: Policy challenges and Budgetary means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013",⁸⁴ proposed developing European citizenship as a main priority for EU action. This includes the need to make citizenship a reality by fostering European culture and diversity, covering areas directly involving European citizens with the integration process, including that of citizenship.

13.2. Funding: Europe for Citizens Programme

Following the first Community programme addressing the promotion of active European citizenship (civic participation) for the period 2004-2006, the Europe for citizens Programme has been adopted. It aims notably to develop citizenship of the European Union, to enhance tolerance and mutual understanding between European citizens respecting and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity, while contributing to inter-cultural dialogue.

Management

The Europe for Citizens Programme is managed by the European Commission (Education and Culture DG). The programme guide has the status of a permanent call for proposals and in most of its aspects will apply for the whole duration of the programme (2007-2013). For certain actions or measures, the format of which is subject to important developments, specific calls for proposals can be published, with a time-limited validity, as applications can be sent in until a specified date. The programme guide presents the general outline of those actions and measures which will be subject to specific calls for proposals.

⁸⁴ COM (2004) 101.

The European Commission relies on the European Agency for Culture, Education and Audiovisual (EACEA), which is responsible for the implementation of most of the actions of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

Under this programme, priority is given to certain themes of particular relevance for the development of active European citizenship.

Thematic priorities for the period of the programme are as follows:

- the future of the European Union and its fundamental values,
- participation and democracy in Europe,
- inter-cultural dialogue,
- people's well-being in Europe: employment, social cohesion and sustainable development,
- the impact of Community policies on society.

Further, annual priorities will be defined, reacting to new or very specific topics of relevance for this programme arising on the European agenda priorities.

Eligible actions

The programme supports different kinds of activities under four actions, including the following two that are of interest for urban issues:

Action 1 "Active citizens for Europe" is directed specifically at activities involving citizens from local communities across Europe to meet, share and exchange experiences, opinions and values, to encourage debate, to learn from history and to build for the future.

The action is divided in two measures: Town-Twinning, which aims at activities that involve or promote direct exchanges between European citizens through their participation in town-twinning activities and encourage networking and cooperation between twinned towns, on the one hand and Citizens' projects, which focus on testing innovative and sound methods for the direct and proactive participation of citizens in order to improve town-twinning and citizens' projects. The financing of support measures allows the exchange of best practice, to pool experiences between stakeholders and to develop new skills.

Action 2 "Active civil society for Europe" is directed at civil society organisations and think-tanks, which will receive either structural support on the basis of their work programme or support to transnational projects initiated by civil society organisations established at local, regional, national or European level.

Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries of grants: all stakeholders promoting active European citizenship, for instance, local authorities and organisations, European public policy research organisations (think-tanks), citizens' groups, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, organisations active in the field of voluntary work, etc.

Budget

The programme has an overall budget of EUR 215 million for 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

Further information

For the relevant documents (Programme Guide, calls for proposals) and updated information on the programme, see:

DG Education and Culture

Unit D.4 Citizenship policy; Europe for citizens

E-mail: eac-unite-d4@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.html

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency - Unit P7 'Citizenship'

E-mail: eacea-p7@ec.europa.eu

Website: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.htm

13.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC

Golden Stars awards:

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/annexes-citizenship/docs/forum08/brochures/brosch_active_citizenship_en.pdf

Best practices from the programme:

1. http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/our-multimedia-library/doc99_en.htm,
2. http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/our-multimedia-library/doc101_en.htm,
3. http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/sharing-experience/experience112_en.htm,
4. http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/pilot-projects/doc379_en.htm

13.4. Information sources

Websites

Education and Culture DG on citizenship:

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/index_en.htm

Education and Culture DG on Town-Twinning:

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/programme-actions/doc60_en.htm

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.php

14. The urban dimension in the development of an EU area of Justice, Freedom and Security

14.1. Policy background and urban issues

Justice, Freedom and Security are among main concerns of European citizens, including those who live in urban areas. Major European cities have to ensure social cohesion and manage increased diversity. Immigration has transformed European cities. For instance, the non-native Dutch population of Amsterdam and Rotterdam was 6% in 1973 and is forecast to be over 50% by 2020. More than one-third of the population of cities as different as Birmingham and Marseille are ethnic minorities. Local and regional authorities face common challenges in this respect.

Another aspect is that local and regional authorities have to ensure public safety, prevent and fight organised crime, tackle drug abuse and trafficking for all of the urban population. As regards urban crime and other forms of social disorder, they are - according to several opinion polls - among the most pressing of citizens' concerns. In many industrialised countries, problems of community safety are presently viewed as more serious than those of the economy, the environment or national security. Within the framework of the EU, several initiatives have been taken which seek to address these problems with both global and specific approaches.

Ensuring social cohesion based on diversity, as well as strengthening the rule of law and security, are fundamental priorities of the European Union. The 2006 Commission Communication to the European Council on "A Citizens' Agenda for Europe"⁸⁵ reiterates this, strongly reaffirming the importance of developing the specific area of Freedom, Security and Justice. The current political framework for detailed legislative and non-legislative actions is the Hague programme, adopted by the European Council in November 2004.⁸⁶

On the basis of the Hague Programme, Common Basic Principles for **Immigrant Integration Policy in the EU** (CBPs)⁸⁷ were adopted. In September 2005, the Commission put forward **A Common Agenda for Integration**, which provided a framework for the integration of third-country nationals in the EU⁸⁸. Council conclusions on the Common Agenda further underlined the need to enhance a common approach to integration policies and measures⁸⁹.

According to the Communication on crime prevention⁹⁰ adopted in 2004, this concept should include all activities which contribute to halting or reducing crime as a social phenomenon, both quantitatively and qualitatively, either through permanent and structured cooperation measures or through ad hoc initiatives. The actions can be undertaken by all the actors likely to play a preventive role: local representatives, enforcement services and the judicial system, social services, education system, associations in the broad sense, industry, banks and the

⁸⁵ COM (2006) 211.

⁸⁶ The Hague Programme: strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union, OJ C 53/1 of 3.3.2005.

⁸⁷ Council Document 14615/04

⁸⁸ COM(2005) 389

⁸⁹ Council Document 14390/05

⁹⁰ COM (2004) 165.

private sector, research workers and scientists, and the general public, supported by the media.

The **EU Drugs Strategy**⁹¹ (2005-2012) was adopted to tackle the drugs problem and to set targets for all EU drug-related activities to attain a high level of protection, well-being and social cohesion by preventing and reducing drug use, dependence and drug-related harm to health and society. The EU Action Plan on Drugs 2005-2008⁹² translated these targets into a list of concrete actions to reduce the prevalence of drug use among the population and to reduce the social harm and health damage caused by drugs.

14.2. Funding

While the Union focused on legislative action during the establishment phase of the area of freedom, security and justice, and complemented this by financial support on a rather limited scale, the work of the Union in this area has, since 2007, entered a phase in which operational concerns are more prominent. With regard to new challenges, solidarity and security issues have acquired a new urgency, thus requiring a more operational and comprehensive approach. This includes the reinforcement and streamlining of Member States' efforts, putting greater emphasis on sound application of legislative and political measures.

14.2.1 Framework programme "Solidarity and management of migration flows"

The programme is composed of four funds, including the European Refugee Fund (a) and the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (b), which are of urban interest.

European Refugee Fund (2008-2013)

Aims to support and encourage the efforts made by the Member States in receiving and bearing the consequences of receiving refugees and displaced persons. As well as the integration of such persons into a Member States' society, the fund also supports actions relating to reception conditions and asylum procedures and enhancement of Member States capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies, particularly in the context of practical cooperation activities between Member States.

Management

The objectives of the Funds are to be implemented mainly by co-financing actions at Member States level, with the programming of their operations, undertaken on the basis of strategic guidelines established by the Community. The multi-annual programme is to be implemented through national annual programmes, setting out the concrete actions to be co-financed, the target population and milestones to be met for each budgetary year. A responsible authority in the Member State shall coordinate and monitor the implementation of the actions co-financed (implementation in shared management). This may involve the launching of calls for proposals and tendering procedures at national level.

⁹¹ OJ C 168 of 8.7.2005.

⁹² OJ C 168/1 of 8.7.2005.

In addition, the Commission is to be responsible for the (centralised) management of the "Community actions" selected through calls for proposals and/or tenders for transnational actions and actions in the interest of the Community.

Eligible actions

As regards integration, it supports actions such as advice and assistance in areas such as housing, means of subsistence, integration into the labour market, medical, psychological and social care; adaptation into the society of the Member State in socio-cultural terms; promotion of durable and sustainable participation in civil and cultural life; education, vocational training, recognition of qualifications and diplomas; promotion of self-empowerment and self-sufficiency; to enable these persons to provide for themselves; meaningful contact and constructive dialogue; acquisition of skills by these persons, including language training; equality of access and equality of outcomes in relation to dealings with public institutions.

Beneficiaries

The resources will be distributed annually among the Member States on the basis of objective criteria, reflecting the burden borne by each Member State through its efforts in receiving asylum seekers and integrating persons benefiting from international protection (refugees, persons benefiting from subsidiary protection).

Budget

The total budget is EUR 628 million for the period 2008-2013. There is no financial allocation specifically for urban projects.

Further information

Contact:

Justice, Freedom and Security DG

Unit B4 - Financial solidarity for immigration, asylum and borders

Website:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm

European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

Aims to support the efforts of Member States to enable third country nationals to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into European societies, in accordance with the Common Basic Principles, and in complementarity with the European Social Fund (ESF).

Management

The objectives of the Funds are to be implemented mainly by co-financing actions at Member State level, with the programming of their operations undertaken on the basis of strategic guidelines established by the Community. The multi-annual programme are implemented through national annual programmes, setting out the concrete actions to be co-financed, the target population and milestones to be met for each budgetary year. A responsible authority in the Member State coordinates and monitors the implementation of the actions to be co-

financed (implementation in shared management). This may involve the launching of calls for proposals and tendering procedures at national level.

In addition, the Commission is responsible for the (centralised) management of the "Community actions" selected through calls for proposals and/or tenders for transnational actions and actions in the interest of the Community.

Eligible actions

The Fund co-finances concrete actions supporting the integration of legally resident third-country nationals in Member States. For example, programmes and activities in Member States aiming at introducing newly arrived third country nationals to the host society and enabling them to acquire basic knowledge about the host society's language, history, institutions, socio-economic features, cultural life and the fundamental norms and values.

Moreover, the Fund would also support Member States and local authorities in enhancing their capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate in general all integration strategies, policies and measures for third-country nationals, and the exchange of information, best practice and co-operation in and between Member States.

Beneficiaries

The resources are distributed annually among the Member States on the basis of objective criteria, reflecting the burden borne by each Member State in the field of integration of third-country nationals.

Budget

A total budget of EUR 825 million has been allocated for the period 2007-2013.

Further information

Contact: Justice, Freedom and Security DG - Unit B4: Financial solidarity for immigration, asylum and borders. Website:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm

14.2.2 Framework programme "Security and Safeguarding Liberties" (2007-2013)

Aims to tackle the problems of insecurity and crime. The specific instrument "**Prevention of and fight against crime**" that is of urban interest is devoted to the prevention of and fight against crime, organised or otherwise.

Management

The priorities identified on the annual basis by the Commission will be implemented through national and transnational projects. The latter must be initiated and managed by at least two Member States under the required conditions. It is foreseen that national projects will only be eligible as starter or complementary measures if they have a potential for transferability of results to EU level or they otherwise contribute to developing a Union policy. The beneficiaries can send the applications, with respect of conditions and deadline required in the published annual calls for proposals. It will be accompanied by a guide for applicants.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

The financial support should address, among others, matters such as quantitative measurement of crime levels and trends of urban, drug-related and juvenile crime as well as impact of urban planning and renovation policies, educational activities, alternatives to prison for drug-using juvenile offenders. The programme can also support exchange of best practice and successful intervention in crime prevention. One of the priorities also concerns restorative justice with a view to identifying mature policies and the factors of their success. Particular emphasis should be placed on determining the extent of the role of offender management in the restorative justice model. The identified good practice examples should be disseminated through the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) website.

Eligible actions

In particular, financial support may be provided for actions improving operational cooperation and coordination (strengthening networking, mutual confidence and understanding, exchange and dissemination of information, experience and best practices). They may also concern analytical, monitoring and evaluation activities, development and transfer of technology and methodology, training, exchange of staff and experts, and awareness and dissemination activities.

Beneficiaries

The programme is notably aimed at public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions, including local, regional and national authorities, social partners, universities, statistical offices, non-governmental organisations and public-private partnerships.

Budget

The overall budget is EUR 600 million (current prices) for 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

Further information

Contact: JLS-ISEC@ec.europa.eu

Website:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm

14.2.3 Framework programme “Fundamental Rights and Justice” – Drugs prevention and information

This framework programme aims to strengthen cooperation in the field of fundamental rights and justice and it includes a specific instrument on “**Drugs prevention and information**” that is of urban interest. Its aims are to prevent and reduce drug use, dependence and drug-related harm and to contribute to the improvement of information on drug use.

Management

The "Drugs prevention and information" instrument is managed by the European Commission (Justice, Freedom and Security DG) which prepares the annual work programme and launches annual calls for proposals, together with a guide for applicants.

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

The thematic priorities do not explicitly relate to urban issues, but clearly these issues have an urban dimension as drugs prevention and information has a strong focus in urban areas.

Eligible actions

The actions will support the exchange of information and the identification and dissemination of good practice, including through training, study visits and staff exchanges, development and improvement of information and prevention programmes, and development of alternatives to imprisonment for drugs abusers.

Beneficiaries

The programme is destined for all groups that are directly or indirectly concerned by the drugs problem. Projects should be designed to benefit all groups at risk from drug abuse. Other target groups or participants in projects may be, inter alia, teachers and educational staff, social workers, local and national authorities, medical and paramedical staff, judicial staff and NGOs. The involvement of civil society, local authorities, teachers, social workers and medical staff, amongst others, is naturally sought through a possibility to set up multidisciplinary networks with a view to developing and exchanging best practice and knowledge in the field of drugs prevention.

Budget

EUR 21,35 million for 2007-2013. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

Further information

Contact: [mailto: JLS-DRUGS-PROGRAMME@EC.EUROPA.EU](mailto:JLS-DRUGS-PROGRAMME@EC.EUROPA.EU)

Website:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm

14.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC

14.3.1 Integration

The network of the **National Contact Points on Integration** (NCPI) was set up 2003 by the Commission with a view to exchanging best practice and information on integration. It plays an important role in monitoring progress across policy fields and in ensuring that efforts at national, regional and EU level are mutually reinforcing.

Two editions of the **Handbook on Integration for Policy-Makers and Practitioners** were published. Handbooks are elaborated in cooperation with NCPIs together with regional/local authorities and non-governmental stakeholders and represent a driver for the exchange of information and good practice. The first edition, issued in 2004, covered the introduction of newly-arrived immigrants and recognised refugees, civic participation and indicators. The second edition focuses on other key issues developed in the Common Basic Principles: mainstreaming and integration infrastructure, examining the mechanisms used for implementing successful integration strategies across all policy fields; housing in an urban environment and economic integration, which present lessons learned in these areas. A third edition is planned for 2009.

A comprehensive approach involving stakeholders at all levels is essential for the success of integration policies. In October 2006, the Commission supported an initiative of the Mayor of Rotterdam and the Eurocities organisation to initiate a process called '**Integrating cities**' aimed to focus on integration challenges from an urban perspective. This initiative will find its continuity in a project, selected within INTI Programme 2006, "**Benchmarking Integration Governance in European cities**", coordinated by the "Eurocities" network.

The **European Integration Forum** was launched in April 2009 and assembles a range of stakeholders active in the area of integration at EU level. EU umbrella organisations, having a membership across a number of Member States, will exchange expertise and draw up recommendations.

The European portal on **integration** www.integration.eu has also been launched. It will maintain an inventory of good practices, promote their exchange and assess their efficacy and transferability to different contexts.

14.3.2 Crime prevention

The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) aims to contribute to developing the various aspects of crime prevention at Union level and support crime prevention activities at local and national level, with particular attention to juvenile, urban and drug-related crime. It collects and analyses information; facilitates cooperation, contacts and exchange of information and experience at Union and national levels; and contributes to identifying and developing the main areas in the crime prevention field.

14.4. Information sources

Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security, EU funding opportunities in the area of justice, freedom and security:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm

Publications

Two editions of the Handbook on Integration for policy-makers and practitioners: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/immigration/integration/doc_immigration_integration_en.htm

Annual report on the priorities of activities carried out by the EUCPN and their implementation:

<http://www.eucpn.org/keydocs/Work%20Programme-principles&themes.pdf>

A review of good practice in preventing various types of violence in the EU:

<http://www.eucpn.org/pubdocs/A%20review%20of%20good%20practice%20in%20preventing%20various%20types%20of%20violence%20in%20the%20EU.pdf>

A review of good practice in preventing juvenile crime in the EU:

<http://www.eucpn.org/goodpractice/index.asp>

15. EU public health policy

15.1. Policy background and urban issues

Cities and urban areas can be very healthy places to live. High quality urban environments, easy access to services, promoting the development of walking and cycling means of transport, stimulating social and cultural experiences, all contribute to making some urban citizens amongst the healthiest people in Europe. At the same time, urban areas contain concentrations of the disadvantaged, poor living and working conditions, environmental conditions which could negatively impact on health, higher levels of addiction to alcohol, drugs and tobacco, less healthy eating, physical activity and sexual behaviour: factors which contribute to a higher level of physical and mental illness particularly in deprived communities.

Past and current initiatives

EU public health policies address determinants of health such as lifestyle, addictions and physical and social environments. The development of urban environments which support and enable healthy choices, for example in terms of promoting physical activity, is a key priority of public health policy. Action together with Member States and other stakeholders, including cities and municipalities, aims to improve health, prevent disease and reduce health inequalities. The importance of local level action is highlighted in key policies such as the EU strategies on alcohol,⁹³ drugs,⁹⁴ environment and health⁹⁵ and HIV/AIDS⁹⁶ as well as Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity⁹⁷.

15.2. Funding: Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health, 2008-2013

The Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health 2008-2013 came into force on 1 January 2008. This follows the 2003-2008 programme which financed over 300 projects and other actions. The programme aims to improve information and knowledge for the development of public health, to enhance capability to respond to health threats and to promote health and prevent diseases addressing health determinants.

Management

The current programme of Community action in the field of public health is under the responsibility of the European Commission (Health and Consumer Protection DG) and managed by the EC Public Health Agency (PHEA). A work plan is published each January identifying Commission priorities for the coming year. This is followed by an annual call for proposals and a guide for proposers.

⁹³ EU strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol-related harm, COM (2006) 625 final.

⁹⁴ EU Drugs Action Plan (2005-2008), OJ L 168/1 of 8.7.2005.

⁹⁵ EU Environment and Health Action Plan (2004-2010), COM (2004) 416 final.

⁹⁶ Communication on combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in the neighbouring countries, 2006-2009, COM (2005) 654 final.

⁹⁷ White Paper on a Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues, COM (2007) 279 final

Thematic priorities related to urban issues

Public health policy themes which are particularly relevant to urban citizens are those relating to environment and health, addictions to drugs, alcohol and tobacco, mental health, lifestyle factors such as physical activity, nutrition and sexual behaviour, accident prevention, as well as the impact of socio-economic factors on health.

Eligible actions

Priority is given to projects having European added value which support policy developments and implementation as well as joint evaluation of activities. On the specific subject of urban development and health, projects dealing with exchange of experiences on assertive urban planning, policy development and evaluation of impact could be supported.

Beneficiaries

Partnerships of local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, such as NGOs dealing with exchange of experiences in health.

A number of projects have already been funded which include a local authority as a main partner or have involved a network of local government. The overall involvement of local authorities in the programme remains modest.

Budget

The total budget of the programme 2008-20013 is EUR 321.5 million. There is no specific allocation for urban projects.

Further information

To assist with applications, the European Commission has established National Focal Points (NFPs) related to the Public Health Programme calls for proposals in a number of EU Member States and participating countries. List of the NFPs: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/agency/docs/nfp_en.pdf

For the relevant documents and updated information on the programme, see: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/howtoapply/how_to_apply_en.htm

15.3. Exchange and best practice supported by the EC

The EU Platform for action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health: The platform was set up by the European Commission in 2005 to identify actions that private actors can undertake which will contribute to improving diet and physical activity levels in the population. It comprises organisations at EU level with an interest in nutrition, physical activity issues and obesity, such as consumer organisations, the food industry, physical activity organisations, national government representatives, academics and public health NGOs, amongst others.

The initiative has been valuable in bringing together various actors around the common issue of how to improve diet and physical activity, and to focus attention on these issues. It may benefit actors in an urban setting to consider whether the creation of such a forum could contribute to effective action at that level.

For further information, see our web-site below. A similar forum to explore alcohol issues (the Alcohol and Health Forum) was established in 2007.

15.4. Information sources

The Health and Consumer Protection DG on public health:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

The EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/nutrition/platform/platform_en.htm

The Public Health Programme:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/programme_en.htm

16. European rural development policy

16.1. Policy background and urban issues

Cities are spreading. The distances separating them become smaller and travelling times between them get constantly shorter. Peri-urban areas are now regarded as one of the major common challenges facing urban Europe. This phenomenon is called urban sprawl. It manifests itself in both micro and macro socio-economic trends such as transport patterns, land prices, preferences for individual houses, demographic trends, cultural traditions and constraints, the attractiveness of existing urban areas and last but not least, the drafting of spatial planning policies at both local and regional scales. It creates environmental, social and economic impacts for both the cities and countryside of Europe, and new needs which have to be fulfilled such as transport, basic services, leisure, communication and tourism.⁹⁸ The promotion of sustainable territorial development requires the management of the urban-rural interface and coordination and cooperation between all the relevant stakeholders.

Past and current initiatives

In recent years EU rural development policy evolved from a policy dealing with the structural problems of the farm sector to one facing challenges in their wider rural context. The central objective of the policy became one of helping to maintain and improve the social and economic structure of rural areas, including peri-urban regions.

Until the period 2000-2006, LEADER+ has been one of the four 'Community initiatives' financed by the EU structural funds. The Leader Method is based on local development strategies developed by local action groups (LAGs) and cooperation projects between areas.

Small towns have been included within the definition of rural area and, subsequently, also the areas of the Local Action Group (LAG) – Member States decided on the size (in the UK, for example, they can be quite big) – adjacent to the main target area of the LAG. Through this facility urban actors may also be drawn into the implementation of the development strategy of the LAG.

16.2. Funding: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

The strategic guidelines for rural development form the basis for the current rural development policy.⁹⁹ They aim notably to maintain a sustainable balance between urban and rural areas. The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development 2007-2013 (EAFRD)¹⁰⁰ sets three main objectives for the rural development policy: increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector (axis 1); enhancing the environment and countryside through support for land management (axis 2); enhancing the quality of life in rural areas and promoting

⁹⁸ ["Urban sprawl in Europe: the ignored challenge"](#), EEA report, October 2006.

⁹⁹ Council Decision of 20 February 2006 on Community strategic guidelines for rural development (programming period 2007 to 2013), OJ L 55/20 of 25.2.2006, as modified by the Decision Of 19.01.2009 – OJ L 30 p112 of 31.01.2009.
http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_055/l_05520060225en00200029.pdf

¹⁰⁰ Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for the rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), September 2005, OJ L 277/1 of 21.10.2005, as modified by Regulation (EC) No 74/2009 of 19.01.2009, OJ L 30 p100 of 31.01.2009

diversification of economic activities (axis 3). Additional emphasis is given on the LEADER bottom-up approach involving rural community actors in planning and decision-making (axis 4).

Management

Following the subsidiarity principle Member States and regions prepare their National Strategy Plans (NSPs) and Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). Programmes are assessed and approved by the Commission but implemented by the national or regional programming authorities at the appropriate territorial level. In total 94, RDPs define the implementation of the Community Rural development policy for the period 2007-2013. Demarcation between EAFRD and the Structural Funds is ensured.

Measures related to peri-urban issues with an urban interest

EAFRD support is provided through a set of pre-defined per axis measures, within the scope of which programming authorities define eligible actions. While axes 3 and 4 target mostly rural areas, axes 1 and 2 cover all the territory of the programming area. However, peri-urban areas falling in the RDPs' definitions of rural areas may further benefit from axis 3 and 4 measures. Support is given for investments, management, training and advisory services, or for development purposes of different kind, depending on the type of measure.

Examples of measures being of an urban interest, which are also applicable in peri-urban areas include the following:

Axis 1 – Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector:

- Adding value to agricultural and forestry products.
Support is provided to processing and marketing of agricultural products or to development of new ones. Investments are often made in companies established in urban rather than rural areas and may therefore support urban economic development.
- Cooperation for the development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector.
Participation in food quality schemes ensures safe and high-quality agricultural products for city dwellers.
Product innovation is often carried out in urban areas.
- Vocational training and information actions
- Use of advisory services

Axis 2 – Improving the environment and the countryside:

- Agri-environment includes organic farming and landscape conservation schemes that also indirectly benefit urban areas.
- NATURA 2000 payments.

Axis 3 – Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy:

- Encouragement of tourism activities. Tourism provides urban areas with recreational facilities and open space.

- Basic services for the population
- Setting-up of basic infrastructure for the rural population, and that of small towns falling within the same definition, including infrastructure related to leisure and cultural activities.
- Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
- Cultural and historical investments and studies providing urban and peri-urban areas with access to national and regional traditions as well historical heritage located in rural areas.

Axis 4 - Leader Axis

Local action groups (public-private partnerships) compile and implement local strategies for rural territories (Leader method). The themes for these strategies are defined at local level and rural towns may be included. This means that the inhabitants of such towns are eligible for all activities that can be supported under the local development strategy. It is the programming authority which selects the Local Action Groups.

Beneficiaries

The "beneficiary", who is responsible for implementing operations and/or receiving support in the EU-27, is an operator, body or firm, whether public or private in accordance with the Community legal framework¹⁰¹, the rural development programmes and the implementing rules of the programming authority.

The beneficiary depends on the type of measures. In the majority of cases, under axes 1 and 2 the beneficiaries are farmers and foresters. However, rural actors and individuals, food processors or third parties, as well as local public bodies, can notably benefit from EAFRD support.

Budget

The total amount of Community contribution amounts, for the 2007-2013 period, to EUR 90,98 billion.

16.3. Information sources

Websites

Directorate-General for Agriculture:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm

Publications

Rural Development Factsheets

¹⁰¹ Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1974/2006 of 15 December 2006 laying down the rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005.

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/publi/index_en.htm

Rural development Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/eval/index_en.htm

Rural Development in the European Union - Statistical and Economic Information - Report 2006:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/agrista/rurdev2006/index_en.htm

Employment in rural areas: closing the jobs gap - COM(2006) 857 final

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/employment/index_en.htm

17. The urban dimension of European external policy

17.1. Policy background and urban issues

Development opportunities and challenges are increasingly concentrated in urban areas which are the engines of national, regional and local economic development. Rapid urban growth is burdening the environment of developing countries due to air pollution, degradation of land, lack of clean water, hazardous and toxic waste, solid waste and lack of green space. Although rural and urban developments are interdependent, it is usually the urban poor who face the consequences of urban environmental degradation.

Cities rely rather on imported products than on home produced ones. Additionally, exponential urban growth is built on weak infrastructure and services. The combination of these factors results in the city entering in a spiral of decline. In order to respond successfully, a constant flow of finances as well as effective institutions are needed. Consequently, a positive correlation between institutional changes, organisational restructuring and human resources training combined with infrastructure investments (also extended to rural areas, thus creating less rural-to-urban migration) could lead to poverty reduction.

Past and current initiatives

The European Union subscribes to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and has geared its development policy towards poverty reduction. The principles governing European Union development co-operation are outlined in the April 2000 Communication from the Commission¹⁰² and are consistent with objectives and programmes agreed at international level, including conclusions of the United Nations conferences and international development targets (particularly Habitat II, Istanbul 1996).

The core of Habitat II is "adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanising world."¹⁰³ Furthermore, the European Council agreed in 1997 on "Environmental Measures in Developing Countries in the Context of Sustainable Development." The regulation aims at "improving the environment and regional planning through urban development planning and the implementation of technologically adapted plans and pilot projects for transport, waste, waste water, the provision of drinking water and air pollution"¹⁰⁴.

In 2005, ninety countries and twenty seven aid agencies endorsed the "Paris Declaration" on aid effectiveness, ownership, harmonisation, alignment, results and mutual accountability. Furthermore, in 2005, the "European Consensus on Development" was endorsed, defining a new concept of cooperation with better coordination and common objectives as supporting pillars, such as on migration, environment, trade and employment, good governance and civil society.

¹⁰² The European Community's Development Policy, Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, COM(2000) 212.

¹⁰³ The Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, General Assembly Resolutions 51/177 of 16 December 1996 and 53/282 of 28 July 1999.

¹⁰⁴ Council Regulation (EC) No 722/97 of 22 April 1997 on "environmental measures in developing countries in the context of sustainable development", Article 2.1.

17.2. Funding

Previously there were thirty-five legal and financial instruments enabling the execution of development assistance projects. These were divided according to either themes (Food Security, European Initiative for Human Rights, etc.) or geographical regions (Africa, Latin America, Asia etc.). For 2007-2013, these thirty-five instruments have been fused into ten, of which the following three include urban development actions to a lesser or greater extent: the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

- The **Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)** includes financial and technical cooperation with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries under the Cotonou Agreement, (€4.9 billion per year) and under country-specific programmes in Latin America and Asia (€1.2 billion per year). Additionally, the instrument finances five thematic programmes (€740 million per year) in all third countries, except industrialised and pre-accession countries. These programmes cover human social development, environment, non-State actors, food security, migration and asylum.
- The **European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)** covers cross-border cooperation between EU Member States and immediate neighbours (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine (€1.7 billion per year). Furthermore, *twinning* projects provide the framework for administrations and semi-public organisations in the beneficiary countries to work with their counterparts in Member States. Together they develop and implement a project that targets the transposition, enforcement and implementation of a specific part of the *acquis communautaire*.
- The **Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)** covers the candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and FYR of Macedonia) and the potential candidates (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia including Kosovo) (€1.6 billion per year) in the scope of transition assistance, institution building, cross-border cooperation, regional, rural and human resources development.

Management

The Country Strategy Paper (CSP) and the annexed National/Regional Indicative Programme (NIP/RIP) are approved by the Member States and co-signed by the recipient countries and the Commission. In order to reach a consistent and effective development approach, urban development assistance has to be included in the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) and is conducted on the basis of the principles of sectoral support, sustainability and good governance. The CSP serve as a framework defining the themes and types of aid channelled to a given country. The new financial instruments allow for a decentralised and demand-driven approach to deliver more, better and faster funding. More than one hundred EC Delegations around the world assist the beneficiary countries to identify, formulate and implement all projects and programmes in compliance with the prevailing rules governing these instruments, following approval of the project outline by the Member States.

The European Commission channels external aid by means of either contracts (to service providers such as consultants and other public or semi-public bodies, suppliers, contractors, or directly to beneficiary countries) or grants (usually to non-profit-making organisations) or on the basis of co-financing mechanisms with international organisations (mainly World Bank and UN institutions). Contracts are awarded after a tendering process on the basis of projects identified by the EU in conjunction with beneficiary countries. Similarly, grants for projects are provided by the EU on the basis of calls for proposals.

Thematic priorities and eligible actions related to urban issues

- **Rehabilitation and reconstruction of urban infrastructure** focuses in particular on *social infrastructure* (following natural disasters, or after conflicts) and *crisis management*. While the emergency phase lies in the field of humanitarian aid, EuropeAid is responsible for the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. Reconstruction actions focus on *basic infrastructure* (water, roadway systems, health, justice, etc.), infrastructure for social integration (for refugees or displaced persons), as well as infrastructure for *economic recovery* (markets, tourism, ports and wharves).
- **Risk reduction and disaster prevention** is a response to the rise in unplanned urban growth, environmental degradation and climate variability. Disaster Reduction and Recovery (DRR) activities include: the creation of institutional and legislative frameworks, risk assessment and early warning mechanism, education and awareness-raising for the population, reduction of risk factors (ecosystem management, land-use planning, reinforcement of critical infrastructure and social safety-net mechanisms) and strengthening of technical and institutional capacities.
- **Urban development actions:** The *construction of buildings* comprises essentially new, or to be refurbished facilities, in the fields of education, health and justice. Programmes on *water supply and sanitation, solid waste disposal and slum upgrading* have a direct health impact, as well as social and economic consequences. In order to have an interlinked city, able to uptake urban growth, a reliable, connecting *transport network* has to be established and maintained. Cultural and historical sites are also eligible for restoration and preservation through *specific heritage protection* programmes.
- **Local governance** has proved to be more efficient in reaching out to poor people than centralised governance.¹⁰⁵ Democratic institutions allow inhabitants to *participate* in city life by defending their interests. As it lies in the responsibility of the local governments to manage the exponential growth of urban areas and to link the peripheral rural areas with cities adequately, local participation and shared responsibility is of paramount importance.
- **Micro- and SME finance and enterprise:** Micro-finance offers to micro, small and medium entrepreneurs a unique possibility to contribute to business and *economic* development inside cities and rural towns. Additionally, an efficient banking system provides security for creditors, savers and investors, especially in highly populated areas.

¹⁰⁵ Reference document: Supporting Decentralisation and Local Governance in Third Countries, EuropeAid, January 2007.

Beneficiaries

The eligibility criteria vary depending on the legal and financial instrument used for development assistance. As a general rule, all legal entities and physical persons coming from the Member States are potentially eligible to participate in the calls for tender) and calls for proposals (for instance, European entities in charge of water and waste management may be involved).

Further information

For the relevant documents (calls for proposals and tenders, applicants' guide) and updated information on the programmes, see:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/tender/index_en.htm

E-mail for general issues: europeaid-info@ec.europa.eu

E-mail for urban issues: europeaid-e7-infrastructures@ec.europa.eu

Internet site: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm

Delegations Websites:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/delegations/intro/web.htm

17.3. Exchange and best practices supported by the EC

EU contribution to UN HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme:

<http://ww2.unhabitat.org/default.asp>

EU trust fund with Cities Alliance:

<http://www.citiesalliance.org>

EU support to South Africa on urban issues:

<http://cmda.org.za/euassist.htm>

17.4. Further sources of information

Additional websites

European Union development policy (DG Development):

<http://www.europe-cares.org/>

External Relations (DG RELEX):

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/index.htm

Information on cofinancing with European NGOs:

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/tender/data/d98/AOF71698.doc>

Publications

Annual Report 2008 on the European Community Development Policy and the implementation of External Assistance in 2007:
http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/reports/index_en.htm

