

## APPENDIX I EUROCITIES ACHIEVEMENTS 2010 AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2011

**Forum Name: Economic Development**

**BCC EU Officer: Laura Leonard**

**Department(s) linked to/supported by work of Forum:**

The Development Department via the Economic Development and European Units are linked to and supported by this forum. There are also evolving links and relevance for Belfast in Europe.

**Outputs and Achievements for 2010:**

Through engagement in 2010, BCC had the opportunity to:

- Access early papers and positions on future cohesion policy and structural funds thinking post 2013
- Opportunity to influence future cohesion policy from an urban perspective
- Share and profile the work of Belfast City Council's OPENCities project on economic migration by chairing the economic migration working group
- Learn how other cities have used ERDF funding to put renewable energy into social housing and can use to influence future NI thinking on use of EU funds

Entrepreneurship Working Group

- Contributed to a study to identify best practice in council's across Europe with regard to support for SMEs. This work is ongoing and will be completed in 2011.

Clusters Working Group

- Belfast City Council withdrew from this working group due to inability of the Economic Development Unit to attend.

Creative Industries Working Group (joint working group with the Culture Forum)

- The council's Creative Industries Officer participated virtually in this working group contributing to a study on best practice approaches to supporting this sector.

Economic Migration Working Group

Belfast City Council through the EU Manager chaired this one year working group and contributed the following;

- Shared the concept papers and practical transferable case studies on the OPENCities migrants project to other cities
- Facilitated and engaged in a peer review visit to examine Dublin's approach to attracting and retaining foreign students. The council involved the University of Ulster Jordanstown and resulted in the university planning to develop a similar international students strategy
- Contributed to two EU studies examining national and local policies in relation to the integration of economic migrants
- Contributed to the increasing Eurocities lobby on cohesion policy

**Forum Priorities for 2011:**

1. EU funding to support cities' integrated development (lobbying on EU budget, Cohesion Policy, Competitiveness and Innovation Programme 2014-2020, 8<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme)

2. Economic recovery, long term economic development and employment:

EU support for the role of cities in driving economic recovery and development, and job creation, including through entrepreneurship, clusters and innovation, creative industries

Including contribute to implementation of Europe 2020, in particular development and implementation of Agenda for new skills and jobs (flagship initiative)

3. Provision of quality local public services and procurement:

EU support for the role of cities in procurement and management of local public services (including lobbying on public procurement directives, innovation policy SGI package and SSGI legislation)

Horizontal priorities: metropolitan governance and urban regeneration

**Forum Working Groups for 2011:**

WG Cohesion Policy  
WG Clusters and Competitiveness  
WG Entrepreneurship and SMEs  
WG Services of general interest – WG Procurement will become a virtual WG, attached to WG SGI  
WG Spatial planning will transform into WG Metropolitan areas  
WG Urban Regeneration

The following working group will receive policy support from Eurocities Brussels Office: WG Cohesion Policy, WG Entrepreneurship and SMEs, and WG SGI.

NB: WG Economic Migration finished its work in November 2010.

**Areas of Work to be Undertaken with Departmental Director approval in 2011:**

Attend three forum meetings and engage in;

1. Entrepreneurship Working Group
2. Urban Regeneration Working Group
3. Metropolitan Areas Working Group
4. Future Cohesion Policy Working Group
5. Creative Industries Working Group (joint with Culture Forum)

**Expected Results:**

- 1a. Contribution to the Eurocities study on best city approaches to supporting enterprise
- 1b. Attendance at seminar on strategies to support entrepreneurship and SMEs
2. Belfast City Council through the Director of Property and Projects will engage in this to learn from effective local area regeneration practices
3. Belfast City Council through the Director of Development will engage on the metropolitan working group to look at best practise approaches to metropolitan governance and city regional working
4. High level engagement in Eurocities post 2013 structural funds lobby to ensure an urban dimension for cities
5. Access to best practice creative industries work and the Economic Development unit is keen to access best practice, ideas and policy

emanating from the forum as well as funding opportunities

**Cost:**

Attendance costs at an average cost of £1,000 per forum meeting per officer

**Attachments:**

1. Forum workplan
2. Working group plans

## **Forum workplan**

### **EDF priorities 2011**

1) **EU funding to support cities' integrated development** (lobbying on EU Budget, Cohesion Policy, Competitiveness and Innovation Programme 2014-2020, 8<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme)

2) **Economic recovery, long term economic development, and employment:**

EU support for the role of cities in driving economic recovery and development, and job creation, including through entrepreneurship, clusters and innovation, creative industries

- Including contribute to implementation of Europe2020, in particular development and implementation of Agenda for new skills and jobs (flagship initiative)

3) **Provision of quality local public services and procurement:**

EU support for the role of cities in procurement and management of local public services (including lobbying on public procurement directives, innovation policy, SGI package and SSGI legislation)

**Horizontal priorities: metropolitan governance and urban regeneration**

### **EDF Working groups 2011**

- WG Cohesion Policy
- WG Clusters and competitiveness
- WG Entrepreneurship and SMEs
- WG Services of general interest - WG Procurement will become a virtual WG, attached to WG SGI
- WG Spatial planning will transform into WG Metropolitan areas
- WG Urban Regeneration

The following working group will receive policy support from EUROCITIES Brussels Office: WG cohesion policy, WG Entrepreneurship and SMEs, and WG SGI.

NB: WG Economic Migration finished its work in November 2010.

### Working Group Plans: Economic Development

<b>WG Title: Entrepreneurship and SMEs</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Economic Development Forum EDF
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Chair: City of Rotterdam, The Netherlands Jette Roelevink, Advisor, Development Corporation of the City of Rotterdam Vice-Chair: City of Barcelona, Spain (through Barcelona Activa, Local Development Agency of the Barcelona City Council) Anna Moleró Romen, Managing Director of Barcelona Activa
<b>3. Member cities</b> (Name of officer and city)	Sunderland, Gateshead, San Sebastian, Nantes, Brighton, Belfast, Munich, Terrazza, The Hague, Tallinn, Eindhoven, Tblisi, Poznan, Gijon, Vienna, Helsinki Other cities are welcome to participate
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>4. Objectives of the WG</b>	1. Exchange between member cities with the aim to develop new policies and instruments to support entrepreneurs and SMEs on the following issues: - Development of local strategies to support entrepreneurs and SMEs - Creation and running of local development agencies - Question of the growth of SMEs, business consolidation – including through clusters - Support to entrepreneurs through training schemes, coaching, skills development schemes (that could involve cooperation with businesses (programmes as Erasmus for young entrepreneurs)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial support: grants, venture capital, micro-loans etc</li> <li>- Reducing the administrative burden : having one single point of contact for entrepreneurs and SMEs</li> <li>- Collaboration businesses &lt;-&gt; university and initiatives to increase cooperation between businesses (networks of incubators &amp; technology parks, networking clubs, etc.)</li> <li>- “Entrepreneurship for all” - inclusive entrepreneurship: for specific categories (migrants, women, young people, senior entrepreneurs, long-term unemployed, etc.)</li> <li>- Talent attraction: work with universities and research centres</li> <li>- Tools and business networking events for entrepreneurs of specific sectors: creative industries, media, software, green companies, bio-technologies, aerospace, homecare, etc.</li> </ul> <p>2. Lobbying the European institutions to make sure cities’ support to entrepreneurs and SMEs is recognised and supported – within the framework of the successor to the Lisbon Strategy: the EU2020 Strategy, the European Small Business Act; the future European Innovation Plan, and other future EU initiatives.</p> <p>3. Contribution to EDF Forum meetings when the topic of the conference is relevant for the working group</p> <p>4. Organising a seminar on cities’ strategy to support entrepreneurs and SMEs during the SME week in Brussels (May 2011)</p> <p>5. Finalise a Report on cities support to entrepreneurs and SMEs. Work started in 2010</p>
<p><b>5. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The WG will help the Forum to achieve its central objective of “sustainable growth”, and especially its first priority: how to support business creation and development, and also the development of skills. The WG will give input to Forum meetings where necessary and appropriate</li> <li>- The WG aims to cooperate with other EDF working groups: WG Clusters, WG Economic Migration, And also with other EUROCITIES WGs: WG Branding Management and City Attractiveness, WG Employment (SAF)</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Expected outputs and completion dates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3 WG meetings: February, June and October 2011</li> <li>- a seminar on cities’ strategy to support entrepreneurs and SMEs in May 2011 in Brussel during the SME week</li> <li>- a report on cities’ support to entrepreneurs and SMEs at the beginning of 2011</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b></p> <p><i>Please indicate contribution</i></p>	<p>Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective. Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members of the WG will be asked to make presentations on their city’s entrepreneurship policy at WG meetings, and also at the seminar on cities’ strategy to support entrepreneurs and SMEs</li> </ul> <p>At each working group meeting, alongside the Forum we will try to have a small study visit in the host city,</p>

<i>expected from WG members</i>	where members could meet the local development agency or local entrepreneurs. - Members will also be asked to answer questionnaires in order to prepare the report on cities' support to entrepreneurs and SMEs and give comments to the draft report.
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<b>WG Title: Urban regeneration</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	EDF
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Iván Tosics (Budapest) and Martin Eyres (Liverpool)
<b>3. Member cities</b>	<p><b>Core Group:</b> Berlin, Dresden, The Hague, Oslo, Porto, Preston.</p> <p><b>Main WG:</b> Belfast, Budapest, Eindhoven, Lille, Liverpool, München, Pendink, Poznan, Prague, Stockholm, Vienna, Utrecht, Warsaw</p> <p><b>Support:</b> NICIS</p>
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>4. Objectives of the WG</b>	<p>Through the work of the core group (and with the support of NICIS) complete the programme of visits to look at the effectiveness of area-based urban regeneration, leading to the production of report and good practice guide. This work will be completed by the time of the spring EDF meeting and the WG want to hold an extended Working Group meeting during that EDF to discuss and disseminate the report.</p> <p>There are a number of other topics that the WG might consider for the remainder of 2011 and these will be discussed during the spring meeting of the WG. Topics to be considered include:</p> <p>social inclusion aspects of urban regeneration (tied into the theme of the 2011 EUROCITIES annual</p>



	<p>meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The European Commission "Cities of the Future" initiative</li> <li>• Impact of EC directives on Urban Regeneration</li> <li>• Harbour areas</li> <li>• Experiences in implementing JESSICA</li> </ul> <p>Once agreement is reached on which topics will be addressed the WG will agree on appropriate objectives for this activity</p>
<b>5. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b>	<p>The report on area based regeneration will be used in discussions with the EC on future of cohesion policy – thus contributing the EDF objective "funding to support cities' economic development.</p> <p>The WG activities will contribute to the horizontal urban regeneration objective in the 2011 EDF work programme.</p>
<b>6. Expected outputs and completion dates</b>	<p>The report on area based regeneration will be published in February and disseminated during the Spring EDF.</p> <p>Outputs related to the other topics will be developed at the Spring EDF meeting</p>
<p><b>7. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b></p> <p><i>Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</i></p>	<p>Completion of the activity and report on area based regeneration will be undertaken by representatives of the core group ( Berlin, Dresden, The Hague, Oslo, Porto, Preston) with support from NICIS and Liverpool.</p> <p>This will include undertaking last city visit, commenting on content of draft report, a meeting to agree and finalise the report, and participation at extended WG meeting at spring EDF to present the report.</p>
<b>8. Requested support from the Brussels office</b>	<p>No support required for core group work. Depending on topics, activity, and objectives selected during the Spring EDF it may be necessary to request part time Brussels office support.</p>
<b>9. Agreed support from Brussels office</b>	

<i>(To be filled completed early 2011, following decision on Forum priorities and discussion between Forum Chair and Policy Director)</i>	
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<b>WG Title: 'Metropolitan Areas' (title tbc)</b>	
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<b>8. Forum</b>	EDF
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<b>9. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Thierry Baert (Lille Metropole) and Peter Austin (Oslo)
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<b>10. Member cities</b>	<p><b>Core Group:</b> Lille Metropole, Oslo, Rennes, Warsaw, Manchester, to be completed with interested cities</p> <p><b>Main WG:</b> Lille Metropole, Oslo, Rennes, Warsaw, Manchester, to be completed with interested cities</p> <p><b>Targets:</b> city experts involved in strategic policy planning</p>
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<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
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<b>11. Objectives of the WG</b>	<p><b>3 overarching objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influence European and national framework for improving city-region cooperation.</li> <li>• Serve as platform for exchange between city experts that are involved in strategic policy planning on issues that include and go beyond core city administrative areas.</li> <li>• Serve as strategic group to advise EUROCITIES work on issues around metropolitan governance</li> </ul>
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and integrated local planning.

This is particularly relevant in relation to discussions on EU budget and the debates on conditionality of funding being linked to an integrated approach at city level. The working group would complement the work being done by the Task Force on EU budget and the WG Cohesion Policy.

**Sub-group on peri-urban issues proposed by Rennes Metropole (see annex)**

**Basis for the WGF work:**

-Work of member cities on metropolitan issues

-Findings from URBACT Joining Forces

- NODUS

<http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/nodus/homepage/>

net-topic:

<http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/net-topic/homepage/>

+ Research:

- IGEAT: <http://igeat.ulb.ac.be/fr/equipe/details/person/christian-vandermotten/>

- PLUREL

+ METREX

<b>12. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b>	Link to EU Budget and cohesion policy work
<b>13. Expected outputs and completion dates</b>	<p>Advise EUROCITIES work on issues around metropolitan governance and integrated local planning.</p> <p>This is particularly relevant in relation to discussions on EU budget and the debates on conditionality of funding being linked to an integrated approach at city level. The working group would complement the work being done by the Task Force on EU budget and the WG Cohesion Policy.</p>
<b>14. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b>  <i>Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</i>	<p>One year with final conference in Warsaw in October 2011</p> <p>6 meetings, half in Brussels: December – March – May – June – mid Sept – Oct conference</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect and produce overview of knowledge and thinking on planning and development for Metropolitan Areas;</li> <li>• Review of existing arrangements and experiences of delimiting, defining and planning the city region/metropolitan area;</li> <li>• Collect case studies;</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaborate policy recommendations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Kick off meeting in December</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> December (tbc):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by Roger Read (METREX) and by Christian Vandermotten (IGEAT)</li> <li>• What types of joint investment and management of infrastructure already exist</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement on the rest of the work for 2011 - in terms of the political messages EURO CITIES want to transmit, how to contribute to EDF-SAF Warsaw October 2011</li> </ul> <p><b>October 2011:</b> Report back within a conference on metropolitan areas, as part of EDF, to be co-organised with EU Polish presidency, and together with Social Affairs Forum, hosted by the city of Warsaw</p>
<p><b>8. Requested support from the Brussels Office</b></p>	<p>Support for the first months to start the work</p>
<p><b>9. Agreed support from Brussels office</b></p> <p><i>(To be filled completed early 2010, following decision on Forum priorities and discussion between Forum Chair and Policy Director)</i></p>	

<b>WG Title: Cohesion Policy and Structural Funds</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Economic Development Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Leipzig  Dr. Heiderose Heßke  heiderose.hesske@leipzig.de
<b>3. Member cities</b>  (Name of officer and city)	Antwerpen, Barcelona, Berlin, Bordeaux, Bristol, Brno, Brussels, Budapest, Dortmund, Edinburgh, Eindhoven, Florence, Gdansk, Gijon, Glasgow, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Katowice, Leipzig, Lille, Liverpool, London, Lublin, Lyon, Madrid, Malmö, Munich, Nantes, Newcastle, Oulu, Pendik, Poznan, Prague, Preston, Rome, Rotterdam, Saint Etienne, Seville, Stockholm, Terrassa, Turin, Turku, Utrecht, Vantaa, Venice, Vienna, Warsaw  Core group: Berlin, Budapest, Dortmund, Leipzig, Liverpool, Rotterdam, Vienna, Warsaw, EUROCITIES Brussels Office
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>4. Objectives of the WG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To ensure a strong urban dimension in the debate on the future cohesion policy.</li> <li>▪ To ensure the recognition of the need to ground interventions at different geographical level (variable geography) in co-operation with WG Metropolitan Areas</li> <li>▪ To ensure a strong urban dimension in the future financial perspectives for the next programming period 2014-2020.</li> <li>▪ To allow for a better integration of actions financed by ERDF and ESF.</li> </ul>
<b>5. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b>	Lobbying for a proper recognition of urban dimension within future Cohesion Policy and EU Budget is one of the main priorities of the Economic Development Forum as well as of EUROCITIES as a whole.
<b>6. Expected outputs and</b>	1) Elaborating EUROCITIES position on the 5 <sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report by mid-January 2011.

<b>completion dates</b>	<p>2) Contributing to EUROCITIES response to the EU Budget Review by February 2011.</p> <p>3) Elaborating EUROCITIES position on the Commission's proposal for the next programming period 2014-2020 proposal by Autumn 2011</p>
<p><b>7. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b>  <i>Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafting of policy papers.</li> <li>▪ Lobbying activities to promote EUROCITIES views towards all EU institutions, participation to relevant events organized by EU institutions including by EU Presidencies (See advocacy Plan 2011): lobby activities should be carried out at European level but also at National level.</li> <li>▪ Organising 2 Conferences on the future Cohesion Policy, one during the first semester of 2011 and the other during the second semester of 2011 (See Advocacy Plan 2011).</li> <li>▪ Contributing to the preparation of EUROCITIES conference on metropolitan areas in Warsaw, in October 2010, in co-operation with WG Metropolitan Areas.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Requested support from the Brussels office</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full policy and WG support  <i>(policy monitoring; support with drafting and disseminating policy documents; support drafting agendas and working documents for Working Group meetings)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No policy support  <i>(limited to uploading web news and any WG related documents to members area)</i></p>
<p><b>9. Agreed support from Brussels office</b>  <i>(To be filled completed early 2011, following decision on Forum priorities and discussion between Forum Chair and Policy Director)</i></p>	

<b>WG Title: Services of General Interest</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	EDF
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	<p>City of Vienna  Karin Mathé (<a href="mailto:karin.mathe@wien.gv.at">karin.mathe@wien.gv.at</a>)  Martin Pospischill (<a href="mailto:martin.pospischill@wien.gv.at">martin.pospischill@wien.gv.at</a>)</p>

<b>3. Member cities</b> (Name of officer and city)	
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>4. Objectives of the WG</b>	<p><b>Efficient lobbying is necessary in the following fields:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>State aid</u>: Evaluation of the Monti-Package. In its resolution on Services of General Interest the WG asks for derogations in competition law and more flexibility in financing services of general economic interest.</li> </ul> <p>According to the Commission decision on the application of Article 86/2 the Members States have to report every three years on the implementation of the decision. The second report must be submitted by December 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission is going to publish a legal act on <u>concessions</u> by the end of this year. The WG rejects any plans making service concessions subject to the EU-public procurement law.</li> <li>• A Commission's communication on a <u>new strategy for the single market</u> on the basis of Mario Monti's report is expected for autumn 2010.</li> <li>• <b>The debate on</b> a horizontal framework law based on <u>Article 14 of the Treaty</u> on the Functioning of the European Union will continue. The WG has the opinion that there is currently no need to advocate a horizontal framework because of the limited value added.</li> <li>• There are also plans for a <u>quality framework</u> for public services on the EU-level.</li> <li>• Adoption of the draft <u>directive on patients' rights</u> and start of the implementation process.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of relevant EU-legislation – exchange of experiences in the fields of the services directive and the regulation on public transport.</li> <li>• <u>Social Services</u>: A quality framework on social services is expected by the end of this year. A WG-collection of best practices on social services is planned. The collection will be published by the Eurocities office.</li> </ul>
<b>5. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b>	The list of objectives proves the importance of the topic “Services of General Interest” in the following year. In order to guarantee both the free choice and the high quality of public services future activities of the WG are absolutely needed. Therefore the SGI-WG should have priority within the EDF forum.
<b>6. Expected outputs and completion dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of the resolution on SGIs in October 2010 and meeting between national politicians (Mayors? Councilors?) and Commissioner Barnier in November/December 2010</li> <li>• Position Papers on state aid and concessions.</li> <li>• Brochure of best practices on social services.</li> <li>• Meeting with MEPs.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b> <i>Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</i>	
<b>8. Requested support from the Brussels office</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full policy and WG support <i>(policy monitoring; support with drafting and disseminating policy documents; support drafting agendas and working documents for Working Group meetings)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No policy support <i>(limited to uploading web news and any WG related documents to members area)</i>
<b>9. Agreed support from Brussels office</b> <i>(To be filled completed early</i>	

*2010, following decision on  
Forum priorities and discussion  
between Forum Chair and Policy  
Director)*

**Forum Name: Environment Forum**

**BCC EU Officer: Sarah Jayne Smith**

**Department(s) linked to/supported by work of Forum:**

Health and Environmental Services, Belfast Health Development Unit (made up of BCC and external partners).  
Property and Projects ( Energy)

**A) Outputs and Achievements for 2010:**

**Attended 3 Forum meetings:**

1) Madrid Meeting – Be Smart, Be Sustainable.

The Spanish Government, EU Presidency during the first half of 2010, discussed their plans for the presidency. A political panel was held. There was a specific side-event for politicians on leadership: “How politicians need to show leadership to invest in a green low carbon economy?”.  
The common EDF-EEF statement arising from the meeting was ‘green economy’.

2) Bourgas Meeting – Financing Environmental Local Policies.

This meeting focussed on the economic crisis, development, and concrete financing of urban environment policy. There was a workshop on the European Year of Anti Poverty. A focussed discussion was held on the 7th Environmental Action Program, and an evaluation of the 6th EAP.

3 ) Copenhagen Meeting- “From green plans to a real green city: how to prevent green washing in city planning?”

This meeting looked at how cities make sure that the visions are implemented in practice. How ambitious goals on sustainable urban

development can be realized and how to create a positive financial investment climate for a sustainable development.

Key outputs:

- Statements of every EEF meeting that are used to lobby the European Commission on policies affecting cities
- Stockholm appeal on Climate Change
- Crisis Recovery paper (economic)
- Green Digital Charter
- Organising Green Events Brochure – Lead by Belfast
- Position on Noise directive
- Evaluation on 6th Environmental Action Programme
- Questionnaire on Green Procurement
- Overview of environmental priorities
- Prepared urban position for COP 15
- An overview of waste collecting practices in Europe
- Position papers on noise and silent tyres
- 7 Environmental Action Plan development
- Energy 2020 Policy Paper/consultation
- A Road map( timeframe) for a low carbon economy consultation with cities

**B) Forum Priorities for 2011:**

In the context of the future of environmental policy at EU-city level:

- Green ICTs for energy efficiency
- Implementation of renewable energies in city
- Climate change adaptation

**Forum Working Groups for 2011 (groups with asterisk are those with Director approval to attend):**

Agreement was sought and approved by the Director to be involved in the following working groups.

Remaining the **Chair of Clean Cities** was approved at the Health and Environmental Services Committee in November 2010

1. Clean Cities
2. Air Quality , Energy Efficiency and Climate Change
3. Noise
4. Water
5. Green Areas
6. Greening the Local Economy
7. Waste Management

Attendance at the working groups varies depending on the need to attend based on core BCC work.

**C) Areas of Work to be Undertaken with Departmental Director approval in 2011:**

- Green ICTs for energy efficiency
- Implementation of renewable energies in city
- Climate change adaptation
- Health and well being
- Recycling/Waste

In 2011 there will be three Forum meetings. The first will be held in Genoa, Italy in April. The other two will be in June and October, venues

to be confirmed.

**Expected Results:**

To be confirmed. The optimum would be funding to support the corporate plan objectives, continued profile for Belfast and policy lobbying.

**Working Group Plans: Environment Forum**

<b>WG Title: Clean Cities Working Group</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Environmental Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Caroline Briggs Belfast City Council
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To positively raise awareness on attitudes and behaviour of citizens regarding illegal depositing of litter and waste and other activities impacting negatively on the visual amenity of cities and quality of life of citizens.</li><li>• To examine how approaches to maintaining clean and attractive cities through a variety of means, can improve the quality of the environment and its potential impact on sustainable social and economic development.</li><li>• To carry out pilot projects with regard to greening major events that helps European cities to identify the environmental impact of different kinds of mass events and design measures to minimize or correct those impacts.</li><li>• Structural exchange of knowledge and good practices. Follow up the results of implementation of proposals made by city partners. Keep Denmark Tidy LIFE + bid in conjunction with Copenhagen.</li><li>• Work with other WGs and organisations in order to develop Clean Cities projects (e.g. Waste</li></ul>

	Working Group, ENCAMS etc.)
<b>4. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networking opportunity</li> </ul>
<b>5. Expected outputs and completion dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further develop a European Measure of Local Environmental Quality.</li> <li>• Study visits/best practice exchange. In conjunction with WG Meetings</li> <li>• WG Meetings: to reduce to a minimum of 2 during 2010, with the possibility of holding additional “virtual” meetings. Dec 2011</li> <li>• Proposal for a Publication of a Guide of Environmental Best Practices in Cultural Events. March 2011</li> <li>• Continue to explore and report on findings of Best Practice.(ongoing)</li> <li>• Review of overall WG activity March 2011.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b>  <i>Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The production of best practice documents and research reports to plan: contributions as and when required</li> <li>• The development of a European Measure of Local Environmental Quality</li> <li>• Results of project on additional selected major events (including the publication of a best practice guide on greening cultural events). Project led by Madrid and Belfast. Input from all interested cities within the EEF WGs.</li> </ul>

**Forum Name: Knowledge Society Forum**

**BCC EU Officer: Deirdre Ferguson**

**Department(s) linked to/supported by work of Forum:**

ISB is the key area of BCC linked to this forum, however as ISB provides a support service for all of Council, the work undertaken by this forum impacts on and benefits all BCC departments.

**A) Outputs and Achievements for 2010:**

Through activities undertaken in 2010 ISB has had the opportunity to:

- Receive up to date information on EU policy and take part in consultation regarding the new Digital Agenda
- Receive information on the Digital Agenda and consider its implications for Council
- Be aware of funding developments to support work such as FP7 policy modelling, and
- Consider partnering in an ICT PSP project
- Build on opportunity created by Rose Crozier's meeting with ICT PSP to influence funding for policy modelling
- Network to learn from the experiences of others and to exchange experience eg Services Directive and Open data
- Develop relationships with others to create a contacts base for the development of potential future projects
- Profile the work of Belfast (with the opportunity to bring in new business)
- Take part in debates, surveys and stakeholder groups to influence policy and to feedback on implementation
- Take part in discussion to influence the set up of new working groups with KSF that are more appropriate to BCC's needs
- Consider the opportunity for BCC to sign the Green Digital Charter to open up future funding possibilities
- Two reports have been produced providing highlights, key learning, web links and contacts made at these events. This information has been disseminated among BCC colleagues to inform their work and to provide follow up contacts
- ISB have confirmed interest in attending KSF and will commit to attending 2 to 3 working groups in 2011



- Dave Carter, head of Manchester Digital Development Agency and lead of one of the KSF working groups met with BCC staff in Belfast to outline the benefits of being involved with Eurocities and to share his learning
- Dave Carter provided invitations for BCC staff to attend a New Generation Access event at the Titanic Quarter
- Manchester is interested in learning more about BCC's 'chipped bin' service
- Attend two KSF Forum meetings:

1) Linköping June 2010: The theme of the conference was how to plan and build sustainable, desirable cities. Key learning points:

- the need to think global and act local and consider 'growing the home' as the basis for ecological, social and economic sustainable development
- Importance of creative/innovation space and collaboration between sectors and functional networks
- Use of Urban Atlas, Urban audit and visualisation tools to engage, inform and influence policy and decision making
- The possibilities ICT presents in reducing Co2 emissions – turning waste into energy and fuel

2) Birmingham October 2010: This conference focused on the EU Digital Agenda. Key learning points:

- The Smart Cities Working Group led by Dave Carter of Manchester Digital Development Agency (DDA) has influenced the allocation of Framework Programme 7 funding and there is now a line written into the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme to support actions relating to the Eurocities Smart Cities work. Manchester DDA, Clicks and Links and a Technical Institute will submit a bid which if successful will enable signatories of the Green Digital Charter to access help to enable them to reduce carbon emissions through pilots such as piloting smart metering. This could be of benefit to BCC and its partner organisations.
- Cities need to be proactive in working with universities and research centres to put themselves forward as test-beds to pilot new initiatives and to work in partnership to draw down EU funding. It has been recommended that cities join as partners rather than leading on bids until they gain reasonable experience
- Two new working groups have been suggested which are of interest to BCC, these focus on the services directive and open data sharing.
- Venice are developing a bid re policy modelling under FP7.

## **B) Forum Priorities for 2011:**

1. Smart Cities & Energy Efficiency

2. Digital inclusion

3. Strategic lobbying within the Digital Agenda framework

4. ICT PSP policy modelling to create funding opportunities

**Forum Working Groups for 2011:**

1. EU Services Directive: This is an area to be reviewed as part of the implementation of the Digital Agenda. The working group will focus on the organisational and technical implementation of the EU's Services Directive, compare and exchange experiences re successes and failures re implementation. This information will provide a sound evidence base for representation at EU level re future development of the Directive. The group will be joined by IBM who sit on SPOCS a large scale EU project. This supports the work outlined in ISB's 2011 work plan.
2. Open Data: This is one of the areas detailed within the Digital Agenda. The working group will focus on the practicalities of opening access to data to make it re-usable as well as identifying potential for joint initiatives at EU level. This will enable ISB to prepare for and implement changes required by the Inspire Directive.
3. Smart Cities\*: to continue work on the Green Digital Charter and focus on the emerging future internet and open innovation agenda of DG Info. This supports the Council's role as Civic Leader.

**B) Areas of Work to be Undertaken with Departmental Director approval in 2011:**

ISB staff will attending the following working groups:

1. Services Directive Working Group
2. Open Data Working Group
3. Smart Cities

A watching brief will be maintained in relation to the work of the following groups:

3. e-Inclusion Working Group
5. e-Government Working Group
6. Broadband Working Group

**Expected Results**

BCC will become more effective and efficient in implementing the services directive and will influence future developments to ensure the

Directive is meaningful and achieves its aims without creating additional demands on cities.  
 Benefit from access to technical and legal expertise to implement open data sharing and stimulate citizen participation and data re-use.  
 Benefit from the opportunity to sign the Green Digital Charter.

## Working Group Plans: Knowledge Society Forum

<b>WG Title: Open Data</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Knowledge Society Forum (KSF)
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Dr. Wolfgang Both, Berlin <a href="mailto:Wolfgang.both@senwtf.berlin.de">Wolfgang.both@senwtf.berlin.de</a> Tel.: 0049 (0) 30 90 13 82 57 Co-Chair: Dr. Markus Dapp, Munich
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exchange experiences and compare project examples on city initiatives in the field of open data across EU</li> <li>▪ Identify potential for joint initiatives on the EU level, e.g. contributing to the EU's new eGovernment Action Plan and the follow-up of the Malmö ministerial declaration</li> <li>▪ Build business cases and collect evidence on the (economic&amp;social) advantages of municipal open data</li> <li>▪ Develop a new Open Data Culture</li> <li>▪ Stimulate Citizen Participation and data re-use</li> </ul>
<b>4. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b>	Open Data is a prior Resource of Smart Cities in a Knowledge Society
<b>5. Expected outputs and</b>	Transparency, Participation, Co-operation

<b>completion dates</b>	
<b>6. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b>  <i>Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish an Open Data guidebook for Cities</li> <li>• Publish Case Studies and Best Practice</li> <li>• Establish a Forum of Experts (legal and technical Aspects)</li> <li>• Identify and engage possible political “sponsors” to support municipal open data in their home country and with EU institutions</li> </ul>

<b>WG Title: Smart Cities</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Knowledge Society Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Barcelona  Joan Battle
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a proper dialogue space for cities to deal with the conceptualization and strategy definition of the Smart City</li> <li>• Creating synergies and supporting projects that specifically address the implementation of the Smart City</li> <li>• Understanding the diversity of Smart City strategies and policies in Europe</li> <li>• Allowing the transferring of successful non-European Smart City experiences</li> <li>• Improved networking with complementary networks supporting open innovation and open data, such as the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL)</li> <li>• Contributing to other European Commission projects and activities related to the Smart City and Future Internet based services for Smart Cities</li> <li>• Raising the European Commission awareness of EUROCITIES activities regarding new trends</li> </ul>

	<p>and particularly the interest of cities in the building of the Smart City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforcing the role of EUROCITIES as a representative exchange network of the local public municipalities</li> <li>• Ensuring that the experience of cities is fully represented in the development of wider EU policies and initiatives, e.g. 'Smart Cities and Regions'.</li> </ul>
<b>4. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b>	
<b>5. Expected outputs and completion dates</b>	<p>Out of the work developed within the WG, the following outputs and outcomes are expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A "guide for cities" willing to implement a Smart City</li> <li>• Regular input into EU initiatives and projects supported through the Future Internet and Smart Cities programmes, e.g. FIREBALL, SmartIP, EPIC, Open Cities.</li> <li>• report on research on ICT-enabled governance models in cities (March 2011)</li> <li>• Final report on research on ICT-enabled governance models in cities (June 2011)</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b></p> <p><i>Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</i></p>	<p>This WG is thought to be a short focused experience lasting no longer than 2 years. It will be based on the work done during the workshops organized along the several EKSF events as well as the work done by the member cities in a common on-line workspace and in collaboration with EU projects supporting Smart Cities. Once the expected outputs and outcomes are fulfilled, the WG will be dissolved.</p> <p>Actions to be developed and proposed timetable during the first semester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG proposal and approval (EKSF Autumn event in Birmingham, October 2010)</li> <li>• WG participants recruitment and survey to identify main discussion priorities (October 2010 – January 2011).</li> <li>• Initial WG workshop (EKSF Spring event, March 2011, place tbd).</li> </ul>

**WG Title: e-Government**

<b>1. Forum</b>	Knowledge Society Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Turin Franco Carcillo
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize IPTS Exploratory Research on emerging ICT-enabled governance models in European cities (EXPGOV).</li> <li>Analyse and investigate mobile innovative technologies and applications, taking into consideration devices like tablet pc, iPhone, iPad and smartphones. This means investigating how mobile technologies, like Android and iOS, impact egov services.</li> <li>Manage EUROCITIES partnership with the European Commission Joint Research Centre on the explorative research project on merging ICT-enabled governance models in European cities</li> </ul>
<b>4. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b>	WG objectives are strictly related to forum and network priorities, as web 2.0 and innovative mobile technologies have an important role in the governance of European cities. Exploring ICT-enabled governance models in cities, including the investigation of cities case studies, will increase the added value of the Forum for both members and non-members and add to overall visibility.
<b>5. Expected outputs and completion dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognition of the visibility of EUROCITIES as proactive partner in the process of EU policy development. Specific WG blog renewal and updating with news and case studies. Progress report on research on ICT-enabled governance models in cities (March 2011)</li> <li>Final report on research on ICT-enabled governance models in cities (June 2011)</li> </ul>
<b>6. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate co-operation &amp; communication between the Knowledge Society Forum and the European Commission on key milestones of the research on ICT-enabled governance models in cities</li> <li>Organise a number of meetings around the mid-term and final results of the European Commission research on ICT-enabled governance models in cities</li> <li>Organize a number of presentations about mobile egov cities experiences</li> <li>Share cities experiences and best practices (through epractice.eu)</li> </ul>
<i>Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</i>	

<b>WG Title: Broadband</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Knowledge Society Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Amsterdam Dirk van der Woude  <a href="mailto:dhvanderwoude@gmail.com">dhvanderwoude@gmail.com</a>
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To coordinate work on the cities role in promoting, facilitating and financing the roll out of Next Generation Broadband Networks;</li> <li>• To understand and clarify the different business cases behind NGN broadband, their advantages and disadvantages for local and regional authorities;</li> <li>• Guidance for local authorities on the use of EU funds for broadband project</li> <li>• Contribute to the different actions announced by the European Commission in their EU Broadband Plan, in particular to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of an investment guide for local &amp; regional authorities</li> <li>• The review the use of structural funds for broadband</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To show and explain the important role Broadband &amp; ICT's can have in achieving a more sustainable and energy efficient Europe, including means like Smart Working, telepresence and videoconferencing;</li> <li>• To explain and demonstrate the positive impact of fine-mazed NGN roll out's on the availability of Next Generation unwired;</li> <li>• To demonstrate the advantages of a trans-sectoral innovation approach in which broadband is used to stimulate and secure innovation in other sectors of societies;</li> <li>• To explore, following the announcement of Dutch pension funds to invest up to 10 billion euro in a Communication Infrastructure Fund, the (dis-)advantages of promoting this all of EU;</li> <li>• Possibly to coordinate work on the development of the EUROCITIES "Ubiquitous Broadband Charter", a framework based on best practices that support local and regional authorities. The</li> </ul>

	<p>framework will be action oriented as well as measurable and will impact on digital as well as sustainability policies. It also will use the experiences form outside Europe, especially Japan, Korea, PR China and parts of the USA.</p>
<p><b>4. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b></p>	<p>The development of the “Ubiquitous Broadband Charter” supports work on the knowledge-, sustainability as well as energy agendas. The working group will actively seek cooperation with other EUROCIITIES forums.</p>
<p><b>5. Expected outputs and completion dates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaction of EUROCIITIES WG Broadband to the EC’s Broadband plan with proposals on the way Cities can contribute and and accelerate – early-mid 2011</li> <li>• Overview of ongoing broadband developments in the EU and the several roles cities are playing, showing examples and best practices: to be used as discussion paper in contact with EC – second half 2011</li> <li>• Workgroup Broadband work programme for second half of 2011 and 2012 – mid 2011</li> <li>• Contributions to research, publications and events organized by the EC and other partners during 2011</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b> <i>Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide recognition for the role Cities can play in realizing the EU’s Digital Agenda including the roll out of NGN’s , in particular in business and EU institutions</li> <li>• Building a strong case for city involvement in national and EU regulatory design</li> <li>• Enhanced profile for EUROCIITIES in understanding and promoting the critical role of broadband</li> <li>• A constructive and positive impact on the European policy development, especially the EC, of the cities’ interests and issues</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of European projects aiming at cooperation between cities in learning and developing, securing funding for these from different sources, the EC included.</li> </ul>



<b>WG Title: Services Directive</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Knowledge Society Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Dresden  Dr Michael Breidung  <a href="mailto:MBreidung@dresden.de">MBreidung@dresden.de</a>
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	<p>The topic to be addressed by the new working group is the implementation of the EU Services Directive in the individual cities of the EU member states. With regard to the different administrative procedures and spheres of technical realisation, the objective is to compare the methods applied and the results obtained by the cities of the European Union in their implementation of the directive.</p> <p>Measures which have already been taken are to be analysed, and synergy benefits are to be utilised by way of scientific exchanges within the framework of the working group.</p> <p>The knowledge gained can be used by Eurocities as a basis for discussion at European level.</p> <p>The cities are to elaborate joint positions and perspectives for the future processing of the results.</p>
<b>4. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b>	<p>The objectives of the working group are very closely related to the priorities of the forum and network. The implementation of the EU Services Directive plays an important role in the individual administrations of the member states. Since December 2009, it has become an imperative requirement that the cities realise all EU-relevant administrative procedures transparently and by electronic means. The implementation of the directive is intended to promote the reorganisation of administrative processes and, through the use of modern information technologies, likewise the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of those processes. In many fields, the cities must adjust the realisation of their tasks to new structures.</p> <p>Furthermore, information from the cities is important for Eurocities, as a sound basis for representation</p>

	of the cities' interests at European level.
<p><b>5. Expected outputs and completion dates</b></p>	<p>The tangible result will be a working paper presenting a comparative analysis of the implementation of the EU Services Directive in the participating cities. At the same time, it is intended to elaborate a position on how the results are to be evaluated, and which further activities appear meaningful on this basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determination of those municipal administrative procedures which are subject to the stipulations of the EU Services Directive, and thereby of the scope of procedures in the participating cities which possess relevance in the context of the directive</li> <li>• Comparative presentation of the administrative procedures affected by the directive by type and scope</li> <li>• Comparative presentation of the individual organisational models in the cities. This is intended to determine the forms in which, for example, a central contact person is established (municipal department, central office?)</li> <li>• Comparative presentation of the differences, if any, in the technical realisation of implementation by way of information technologies</li> <li>• Position and perspectives regarding the results of implementation in the cities</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b> <i>Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</i></p>	<p>It is planned to organise a number of working meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>First meeting</u> Inaugural meeting – distribution of documents from Dresden</li> <li>• <u>Second meeting</u> Contributions by the members, evaluation and discussion; possibly further review stages</li> <li>• <u>Third meeting</u> Finalisation of the working paper The individual documents are to be elaborated between the different meetings.</li> </ul>

<b>WG Title: e-Inclusion</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Knowledge Society Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Ghent, Belgium Martine Delannoy, Program Director Digitaal.Talent@Gent
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadband access: The e-Inclusion working group will collaborate with the broadband working group in order to guarantee broadband access as a universal service obligation.</li> <li>• Free internet points: The e-Inclusion working group will set up criteria for free internet points and develop an official recognition of these points.</li> <li>• Free support: The working group will set-up a pilot project to help citizens using their e-services.</li> <li>• Communication: The e-Inclusion working group will promote activities to publicise the advantages of the Information Society at the local level.</li> <li>• Usability and accessibility: The members of the e-Inclusion working group will set up usability and accessibility criteria in collaboration with other governmental levels and promote the use of these to all local public authorities.</li> <li>• E-skills and e-Literacy: The e-Inclusion working group will help develop e-literacy test projects and help develop a tool to recognize e-skills.</li> <li>• Indicators and methodologies: The e-Inclusion working group, in close collaboration with the academic world, will set up local indicators and methodologies that will lead to smart e-Inclusion</li> </ul>

	<p>policy formulation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration: The working group will increase its collaboration through effective usage of online collaboration platforms.</li> <li>• New members: The working group will actively seek out new potential members through added value of various initiatives.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. How do WG objective relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b></p>	<p><b>e-Inclusion</b> aims to achieve that "no one is left behind" in enjoying the benefits of ICT. e-Inclusion means both inclusive ICT and the use of ICT to achieve wider inclusion objectives. It focuses on participation of all individuals and communities in all aspects of the information society. e-Inclusion policy, therefore, aims at reducing gaps in ICT usage and promoting the use of ICT to overcome exclusion, and improve economic performance, employment opportunities, quality of life, social participation and cohesion.</p>
<p><b>5. Expected outputs and completion dates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be agreed</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b> <i>Please indicate contribution expected from WG members</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be agreed</li> </ul>

**Forum Name: Culture Forum**

**BCC EU Officer: Pièr Morrow**

**Department(s) linked to/supported by work of Forum:**

This Forum links to and supports work in the Development Department and in particular the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit. In addition there is also benefit for Parks and Leisure as this Department controls some tourism facilities including the Zoo and Parks including Botanic Park. It also links to the work of Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau and Belfast City Centre Management.

**(A) Outputs and Achievements for 2010:**

Note: BCC to date has not engaged formally in this forum but maintained a watching brief for relevance to the work of BCC in 2011. Initial engagement has led to the following awareness and information, and BCC has had the opportunity to:

- Receive up to date information on EU policy and take part in a range of consultations
- Receive information on the Cultural Issues and developments and consider their implications for Council and Belfast
- Be aware of funding developments to support work such as Culture Programme, Interreg IVB and Youth Programme
- Consider partnering opportunities
- Network to learn from the experiences of others and to exchange experience
- Develop relationships with others to create a contacts base for the development of potential future projects
- Profile the work of Belfast – resulting in Belfast being recognised nationally and internationally as a leisure and business destination
- Take part in debates, surveys and stakeholder groups to influence policy and to feedback on implementation
- Take part in discussion to influence the set up of new working groups through the Forum
- Attend Culture Forum Events

A Members' survey conducted during 2010 clearly outlined members' priorities for 2011 and this was the basis for the formulation of the 2011 work programme. A new electronic culture monthly update was launched in 2010 and will continue in 2011 and will be a tool for member cities

to use to promote specific initiatives or events related to culture in their cities.

In 2010, the Working Group answered the European Commission's consultation on cultural and creative industries and published a good practice guide showcasing initiatives from 16 cities to foster their creative sector.

### **(B) Forum Priorities for 2011:**

#### **Priorities for 2011:**

- Dealing with budget cuts (not only in the UK). Members need to exchange knowledge on how cities cope with the economic downturn, ie. working with the business sector, with volunteers, new partnerships...planning to develop an on-line survey to collect information from cities which will be shared. That will be one of the main topics for discussion during the March Forum meeting in Turku (16-19)
- Culture in the social development of cities - including economic and social impacts of culture
- Participation of citizens in local cultural life - Focus on children and young people

#### **Contribution to the European policy processes**

Early in 2011 the Culture Forum will respond the European Commission's consultation on the future of the European Capital of Culture initiative (after 2019). 26 EUROCIITIES members have been designated European Capitals of Culture since 1986 and many more have or are currently bidding for the title. EUROCIITIES supports the initiative and will propose concrete measures to improve it.

2011 is an important year for the future of the Culture programme. The Commission is currently analysing stakeholders' response to the 2010 consultation on the future of the programme and will come up with a concrete proposal early summer.

2011 will also mark the presentation by the European Commission of new policy actions aimed at supporting the cultural and creative industries. This will be a follow-up of the large consultation launched in 2010.

For both the Culture programme and new actions targeting the creative industries the Culture Forum will follow legislative development and will make sure cities' interests are taken into account by the relevant European institutions.

#### **Cooperation with other EUROCIITIES Forums**

In 2011 the culture Forum will continue contributing actively to the general EUROCIITIES policy development and will input to key dossiers such as the budget review, the future of the European cohesion policy and the European innovation policy.

The Culture Forum will cooperate with the Social Affairs Forum as part of the Autumn Forum in Antwerp that will focus on young people.

Forum activities on cultural and creative industries will also benefit from the input of the EUROCIITIES Economic Development Forum (ie Working Group entrepreneurship).

#### **Forum Working Groups for 2011:**

Working Groups that will continue in 2011

- Resources for Culture
- Creative Industries
- Cultural Access and Entitlement,
- Culture and Young People,

A new Working Group on **mobility of artists' and cultural professionals** will be launched early 2011

Creative Industries Working Group is now focusing on how cities help developing new creative businesses. It will also meet in May in Nantes on the topic 'creative industries and sustainable development'. The Council's Creative Industries Officer engages in this virtually and will continue to do so.

#### **(C) Areas of Work to be Undertaken with Departmental Director approval in 2011:**

Attendance at three forum meetings in 2011 - the first will be in Turku in March and will focus on culture and well-being and a plenary session on new funding schemes for culture (cities facing budget cuts); the second in Aarhus in June focusing on governance for local cultural policies and the cultural production centre of the future; and the third in Antwerp in October - focus on young people and culture and the role of city museums.

The European Culture Forum Conference will be held in Brussels in September 2011.

BCC will contribute to the European policy process through participation in relevant consultations. A watching brief in relation to the development of cultural policy will be maintained and expertise will be shared.

BCC will use the Culture Forum to identify best practice and benchmarking to assist in the delivery of the new Integrated Tourism Strategy and the development of the new Integrated Cultural Plan. The areas to be included in learning, benchmarking and sharing knowledge include cultural infrastructure, use of new technology, heritage issues, development of Belfast Story, maximising Titanic and maritime heritage particularly for 2012, extending benefits of tourism across the city and opportunities through the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

BCC will identify funding opportunities due to open later in 2011 through the Culture Programme and any other funding calls to support corporate plan objectives and in particular tourism, culture and arts.

Creative Industries working group – the Creative Industries Officer engages virtually with this group and will continue to do so.

**(D) Expected Results:**

To be confirmed – the optimum would be funding to support corporate plan objectives, policy influencing and awareness and creating profile for Belfast internationally.

**Working Group Plans: Culture Forum**

<b>WG Title: Resources for Culture</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Culture Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Rob Ter Steege Eindhoven
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	



<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	The Working Group examines the different types of financial resources that are available in cities to help sustain and develop their cultural infrastructure in the long term.
<b>4. Actions and expected outputs in 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2011 the group will continue exchanging experiences and information on how to strengthen resources for culture, and how to deal with the shrinking budgets in the post crisis years.</li> <li>• It will also closely follow the preparation by European institutions of the future Culture programme (2014-2020) and will make sure that the main points of the EUROCITIES response to the consultation on the future of the Culture programme (December 2010) are taken into account by European institutions.</li> </ul> <p>The Working Group will also contribute to the development of EUROCITIES positions on the future European budget as well as on the future of the European Structural Funds.</p>

<b>WG Title: Creative Industries</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Culture Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Malcolm Wood Nottingham,
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	This is a joint WG of the EUROCITIES Culture Forum and the EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum. Its objective is to promote cross-fertilisation of ideas/projects/public policies related to cultural and creative industries. Also to share best practice targeting in particular measures to support and promote new forms of access to financial resources, to business support and to appropriate training.
<b>4. Actions and expected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2011 members will focus on the follow-up of the EC Green paper on cultural and creative</li> </ul>

<b>outputs in 2011</b>	<p>industries: European Parliament report, concrete policy measure to be implemented by the European Commission, creative industries in the next generation of EU funded programmes (2014-2020).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The forthcoming European Creative Industries Alliance will also be a key European initiative to be followed closely by the group (several members have already announced their willingness to submit proposals through a forthcoming call).</li> <li>• In May a meeting taking place in Nantes will focus on creative industries and sustainable development. This will include two issues: Creative industries and social and environmental responsibility and Communicating sustainable development issues and the climate change challenge: the role of arts and creative industries.</li> <li>• European Culture Forum Conference will be held in Brussels in September</li> </ul>
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<b>WG Title: Access to Culture</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Culture Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Valerija Zirdzina Riga
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	The Working Group's aim is to identify, define and compare policies and action plans implemented by European cities regarding accessibility of cultural spaces and services. All aspects of accessibility - social, cultural, intellectual, physical and financial are taken into account.
<b>4. Actions and expected outputs in 2011</b>	Best practices highlighting the fostering of participation of different social groups in culture will be presented.

<b>WG Title: Young People and Culture</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Culture Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Olga Smit Rotterdam
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	This Working Group shares best practices about young people, culture and inclusion through cultural activities
<b>4. Actions and expected outputs in 2011</b>	In 2011 the group intends to take a leading role in strengthening the success of the phenomenon of the European Youth Capital, with a dedicated session planned to take place during the Autumn Forum in Antwerp, European Youth Capital 2011.

<b>WG Title: Mobility of artists and cultural professionals</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Culture Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Dominique David Nantes

<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	For artists, mobility is a professional and artistic necessity in order to export their work, perform, learn, create, cooperate and discover new ways of expression. An informal group was launched in 2010 in order to explore new ways of funding mobility, new tools and experimental approaches to foster artists' mobility in Europe. This group met during 'Open space' at Forum meetings and a meeting also took place in September 2010 in Brussels for cities interested in fostering mobility and professional cultural networks involved in mobility to meet and share experiences.
<b>4. Actions and expected outputs in 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting up a EUROCITIES Working Group will formalize the Open space group on mobility and will set up a frame in order to develop actions to foster mobility of artists and cultural professionals.</li> <li>• Meetings will be structured in two parts: a specific theme for debate, and then presentations by cities, underlining new and innovative tools fostering mobility.</li> </ul>

**Forum Name: Social Affairs Forum**

**BCC EU Officer: Pièr Morrow**

**Department(s) linked to/supported by work of Forum:**

This Forum links to and supports work in the Development Department and in particular the Community Services Unit, Policy Unit given the development of the Poverty Framework; and the Economic Development Unit. In addition links to and supports the work of BCC's Good Relations Unit and links to Belfast in Europe given members have the remit for many areas of work that BCC does not have a remit for.

## **(A) Outputs and Achievements for 2010:**

The golden thread running through much of the SAF's work throughout 2010 and which a lot of energy has been dedicated to has been leading the **EUROCITIES Campaign to mark the European Year on Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**. This has included:

- Thematic seminars discussing long-term unemployment (Katowice), health inequalities (Ghent), child poverty (Newcastle) and area-based approaches to social inclusion (Budapest). Preparatory work for these seminars was undertaken by WG Social Inclusion, WG Employment and WG Health and Wellbeing. Belfast City Council
- Other EUROCITIES Forums contributing to the Campaign in their meetings (environment, culture, digital exclusion, mobility)
- Developing recommendations on combating poverty addressing the European institutions, the Social Protection Committee and the Belgian Presidency.

**Two Social Affairs Forum meetings** were also held this year:

- March 2010 in Murcia. Theme: Adapting social services to reach the hardest-to-reach groups
  - October 2010 in Brussels (joint meeting with the EDF): Final conference of EUROCITIES Campaign to mark the 2011 European Year of Combating Poverty & Social Exclusion. Included presenting the EUROCITIES recommendations to representatives from the EU institutions
- The **EUROCITIES Network of Local Authority Observatories on active inclusion (NLAO)** was enlarged to ten cities. The NLAO undertakes research and awareness raising on EU active inclusion strategy at the local level.
  - Further work has been undertaken towards a shared vision for **migrant integration** in European cities led by WG Migration and Integration
    - Integrating Cities IV in London launches new Integrating Cities Charter (21 cities signed so far)
    - new project MIXITIES on delivering on Charter commitments
  - The **"Inclusive Cities for Europe" PROGRESS partnership** with the European Commission has helped support much of this work. The partnership aims to develop a stronger role of cities in EU social inclusion and will continue in 2011-13.
  - Talks have begun with the European Foundation about how EUROCITIES can co-operate with them on **Roma inclusion** and related matters. This follows on from the work of the WG Social Inclusion earlier in 2010 on the Roma.
  - SAF has also been active in developing a number of publications and contributing to relevant EU policy debates:

- A local perspective on Active Inclusion – NLAO-Report “Social Services supporting Active Inclusion - **Housing and Employment** in five European cities”.
- EUROCITIES Response to European Commission on new agenda for **migrants integration**
- EUROCITIES Message to the Social Protection Committee on **mainstreaming migration in social policies**
- Key conclusions from EUROCITIES **campaign on combating poverty and social exclusion**
- EUROCITIES statement on new “**Platform Against Poverty**”
- EUROCITIES delegation **meets Commissioner Cecilia Malmström (Home Affairs)** on strengthening cooperation on migrant integration
- EUROCITIES delegation **meets Chair of the European Parliament’s LIBE Committee Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar to discuss cooperation**

The successful delivery of this programme has been due in no small part to the leadership of the Chair city of Stockholm throughout 2010 represented by Ulf Kristersson and Anna Mattson – as well as the work of the EUROCITIES Social Affairs team and the Steering Group of the Social Affairs Forum which has taken steps to consolidate and strengthen its role throughout 2010; this will be continued and where possible supported by PROGRESS in 2011 to ensure that all facets of the SAF’s work are as joined up as possible.

The work illustrated above has informed and contributed to:

- Belfast City Council’s Strategic Poverty Framework – particularly the learning from the 4 workshops as part of the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.
- Informing the work with the travelling community and inclusion policy for travelling and work ??? Roma
- Receiving up to date information on EU policy and take part in a range of consultations as they arise
- Create awareness of funding developments to support work and to consider partnering opportunities
- Network to learn from the experiences of others and to exchange experience
- Develop relationships with others to create a contacts base for the development of potential future projects
- Profile the work of Belfast
- Take part in debates, surveys and stakeholder groups to influence policy and to feedback on implementation

#### **(B) Forum Priorities for 2011:**

The Work Programme reflects the priorities of the new Chair city of the Social Affairs Forum (SAF), Birmingham. After almost two years as Vice Chair, the City of Birmingham was elected SAF Chair on 11 October 2010. The Hague was elected as the SAF’s new Vice-Chair.

*The vision for the Social Affairs Forum in 2011 is to position the Forum both to support cities to meet the local social challenges they are facing with regard to having to do more with less and helping their citizens through the economic downturn and recovery - and to make the most of the significant 'window of opportunity' the SAF has to influence future EU policy particularly with regard to EU2020 inclusive growth and the future of EU funding for social policy.*

#### EU 2020

This overarching 10 year growth strategy for Europe puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:

- Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation.
- Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy.
- Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

The inclusive growth aspects to the strategy are of particular relevance to the SAF. The Commission's proposal defines several **'headline targets'** to be adapted at national level in order to reflect "differing starting points". Three of these relate to social affairs:

- Raising the **employment rate** of the population aged 20-64 from the current 69% to 75%.
- Reducing the share of **early school leavers** from the current 15% to under 10% and making sure that at least 40% of young people have a degree or diploma.
- Reducing the number of Europeans living below the **poverty** line by 25%, lifting 20 million out of poverty from the current 80 million.

The EU2020 Strategy also proposes a number of **'flagship initiatives'** a number of which relate to social affairs:

- **"Youth on the move"** aims to enhance the performance of education systems and to reinforce the international attractiveness of Europe's higher education.
- **"An agenda for new skills and jobs"** aims to modernise labour markets by facilitating labour mobility and the development of skills throughout the lifecycle with a view to increase labour participation and better match labour supply and demand.
- The **"European platform against poverty"** aims to ensure social and territorial cohesion such that the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society.

The **Social Affairs Forum will work to ensure the views of cities are heard as the EU2020 flagship initiatives are developed** further in the coming months.

Given the local and EU policy context outlined above, the priorities for the Social Affairs Forum in 2011 will be:

- Social services in the context of reduced public finances including the future of ESF
- Adapting social services to meet new and emerging social needs
- Tackling economic exclusion through innovative policies for education, unemployment, re-skilling, and combating poverty (including linking to EU2020 inclusive growth proposals)
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In addition, for 2011 the **SAF will also have a social inclusion and combating poverty ‘champion’ to ensure that this remains high on the agenda** for the SAF; it is proposed that the former Chair of the WG Social Inclusion, Newcastle, undertakes this role given the city’s key role both in the former Working Group and also in being one of the lead cities throughout the Campaign. This is a new approach which the SAF will adopt throughout 2011. The reasons for this approach are that:

- The decision was taken to close down the WG Social Inclusion not because the issue is not important for cities and at EU level (on the contrary, it is) but in part because a “Working Group” was perhaps not a suitable structure to look at a cross-cutting issue such as Social Inclusion. Social inclusion is a cross-cutting theme all WGs and projects within SAF will be addressing in 2011, the champion role will be to work with the Steering Group to ensure that this is indeed mainstreamed rather than becoming ‘lost’ as an issue.
- The need to ensure that the EURO CITIES messages and legacy of the Campaign to mark the 2010 European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion lives on and is capitalised upon throughout 2011.
- In recognition of the fact that inclusion remains high on the agenda for cities, EURO CITIES (one of the network’s three overarching priorities is inclusion) and for the EU (the EU 2020 inclusive growth pillar including a Platform on Combating Poverty).

#### **Forum Working Groups for 2011:**

Given the priorities for the SAF and also the policy drivers coming from EU level, The proposals for which areas of work will operate under the auspices of the SAF in 2011, as well as the decisions about which ones should receive support, take into account the following elements:

- Linkages to the SAF 2011 priorities
- Opportunity to influence at EU level
- Opportunity to work towards tangible outcomes in 2011
- Level of current active involvement and engagement within existing Working Groups
- Resources available (staff and financial)

#### **Working groups for 2011 are:**

- Education
- Migration & Integration



- Employment
- Health and Wellbeing
- Roma & related inclusion issues

**(C) Areas of Work to be Undertaken with Departmental Director approval in 2011:**

A watching brief on the Education working group for which BCC does not have a direct remit, however, through the Belfast in Europe network and other linkages, relevant policy and funding opportunities will be shared and in particular if that work touches on any of BCC work in particular in the cross cutting area of combating poverty and social exclusion. A watching brief will also be kept on work relating to social services in the context of reduced public finances including the future of ESF and adapting social services to meet new and emerging social needs – this will be shared through the Belfast in Europe network.

Attendance at two full SAF meetings – one to be held in the spring (Grenoble), one to be held in the autumn (Warsaw, jointly with the EDF). The theme of each is to be agreed between EUROCITIES, the SAF Chair and host city and will complement SAF 2011 priorities.

Engagement with the Employment working group for 1 year initially with the Economic Development Unit. Strong partners in the working group, look at social inclusion and employment and social innovation and social enterprise - looking for new ways of doing things through best practice and ideas. Attendance at one Employment working group meeting as part of the SAF meeting in Grenoble.

Engagement in the Migration and Integration working group with Good Relations on the implementation of the Integrating Cities Charter through the MIXITIES project. Council has approved the signing of the Charter and Hazel Francey will arrange that with the Lord Mayor in the coming weeks.

Keep a watching brief on the work of the Roma working group and share information with colleagues in Environmental Services who work on issues as part of a safety group. BCC has no direct remit for Roma at this time.

Engagement in the wider work through the Social Affairs Forum on social inclusion and youth with Community Services – bearing in mind that economic activity is not the only tool to be used in moving out of poverty.

Work with all relevant departments and units and in particular with Community Services, Tourism, Culture and Arts and Events on relevant projects or profiling work in Belfast linked to the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

**(D) Expected Results:**

To be confirmed – the optimum would be funding to support corporate plan objectives, policy influencing and awareness and creating profile for Belfast internationally.

**Working Group Plans: Social Affairs Forum**

<b>WG Title: Migration and Integration</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Social Affairs Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Ramon Sanahuja i Vélez Barcelona
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Raise awareness of the importance of involving the local level –and cities in particular –when developing migration/integration policies at national and European levels</li><li>- Influence EU policy making on migration and integration</li></ul> <p>Ensure innovation in cities integration policies through exchange on best practice, experience, Knowhow and mutual learning based on innovative method</p>
<b>4. How do WG objectives relate to Forum &amp; network priorities</b>	Network priorities stay inclusion, recovery, sustainability. SAF Priorities for 2011 will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Social services in the context of reduced public finances including the future of ESF</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adapting social services to meet new and emerging social needs</li> </ul> <p>Tackling economic exclusion through innovative policies for education, unemployment, re-skilling, and combating poverty (including linking to EU2020 inclusive growth proposals)</p>
<b>5. Actions and expected outputs in 2011</b>	To be finalised, agreed and confirmed at the first working group meeting
<b>6. Set of proposed actions to achieve output and objective.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consolidation of Integrating Cities Partnership with European Commission; intensified dialogue with National contact points on Integration and European Migration Network</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Assessing and countering impact of economic crisis in the process of integration and perception of migrants and diversity across European cities</li> <li>- monitor development of implementation plan for Stockholm Programme under Spanish Presidency</li> <li>- improve efficiency in terms of mutual learning and information sharing within WG</li> </ul>
<b>7. Requested and agreed support from the Brussels office</b>	Full policy and WG support <i>(policy monitoring; support with drafting and disseminating policy documents; support drafting agendas and working documents for Working Group meetings)</i>

<b>WG Title: Employment</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Social Affairs Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Nico van de Vrie Rotterdam

<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Output</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	<p>The WGE can contribute a lot to the SAF Strategy :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support of exchanges of experience and know-how among cities working to tackle poverty and social exclusion, to eradicate all forms of discrimination and to improve the integration of migrants and asylum seekers.</li> <li>• Strengthen the involvement of local authorities in the development and implementation of national and European social policies.</li> </ul> <p>Employment is one of the Social Affairs Forum's main topics (next to Social Inclusion and Migration &amp; Integration) whereas "recovery" is one of the three priorities of EUROCITIES</p>
<b>4. Actions and expected outputs in 2011</b>	<p>There is still some work to be done on the Actionplan 2010 of the WGE which will carry into 2011 under 3 main topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Responses to the Crisis</li> <li>2- Jobcentres</li> <li>3- Employer involvement</li> </ol> <p><b>Remaining actions from 2010</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- The reports on the responses to the crisis and local job centre comparison have to be finalised. Chair WGE will organise a meeting on both reports to be held in Rotterdam in February 2011.</li> <li>2- The job centre comparison needs to be facilitated through external expert (selected by Chair WGE and financed by PROGRESS) and further cities will be contacted in advance to complete data collection on job centres . A basis for systematic exchange on job centre approaches in the future needs to be developed.</li> <li>3- Chair WGE will organise an expert-meeting on employer-involvement for WGE-members in April 2011, to make an inventory of the existing approaches and develop a basis for structural comparison. This action will be finalised in June 2011 leading to a report with results and recommendations in August 2011.</li> </ol>

## **Actions for 2011**

### **1. Fit-4-Work**

The 4 major cities (G4) in the Netherlands (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht) are developing a new (experimental) Fit-4-Work program for unemployed persons with mental health problems. This experimental program consists of a structured diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric problems, integrated in reintegration with individual placement to work.

#### **Actions**

Chair WGE will ask WGE members to be involved in validation of this G4's new ESF project 'Fit-4-Work'. Chair WGE will organise 2 expert meetings in Rotterdam in May/June 2011 and September 2011 (funded by Rotterdam).

### **2. Review ESF/PROGRESS**

The European Commission asked EURO CITIES to play an important role in the review of the current ESF Program, in order to contribute to future ESF 2014 -2020 program and PROGRESS. The basic idea is to make an inventory on the usage of ESF/PROGRESS and necessary/desired future adjustments, based on 'working-floor' information and experiences. SAF has asked Chair WGE to play a leading role in this action. Chair WGE will develop a format for this. This action will be financed by EURO CITIES.

#### **Actions**

Chair WGE will develop a specific plan for this in accordance with Steering Group SAF for meeting in March 2011.

Chair WGE will ask WGE members to be involved in Review ESF/PROGRESS and will visit WGE-members in April – June 2011 for making an inventory and reporting to SAF in July 2011.

Chair WGE will organise 2 expert-meetings in Autumn 2011 for finalizing report with recommendations.

### **3. SSH-research project on measures for combating poverty and creating employment opportunities**

Socio-economic sciences and the humanities (SSH) is the fourth consecutive program of the European Commission on socio-economic sciences and humanities since 1994. In the current program, which is part of the Seventh European Research Framework program emphasis is given to the following areas (a.o.):

1-Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society:

- innovation, competitiveness and labour market policies;
- education and life-long learning;
- economic structures and productivity.

2-Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective:

- models within Europe and across the world;
- economic and social and cohesion across regions;
- social and economic dimensions of environmental policy.

3-Major trends in society and their implications - demographic change, reconciling family and work, health and quality of life, youth policies, social exclusion and discrimination.

4-Socio-economic and scientific indicators - the use and value of indicators in policymaking at macro and micro levels.

5 -Foresight activities - the future implications of global knowledge, migration, ageing, risk and the emerging domains in research and science.

6 -Strategic activities - including research for policy support and international cooperation

Chair WGE has offered a consortium of Universities to participate in study/survey for EC in the frame of SSH-research project on measures for combating poverty and creating employment opportunities. This study/survey will be funded and executed by SSH-consortium universities and provide contributing cities important information for measures for combating poverty and creating employment opportunities, based

on a scientific comparison.

**Actions**

Chair WGE will develop a specific plan for this in accordance with SSH Consortium of Universities in January – February 2011.

Chair WGE will ask WGE members to be involved in SSH-project (March 2011)

**4. Monitoring / input EC flagship initiative agenda for New Skills/New jobs**

Research shows that new and higher levels of skills will be needed for the jobs of tomorrow. The economic crisis and structural factors like globalisation, technological changes, ageing populations and the shift to a low-carbon economy are all contributing to rapid change in European labour markets.

As a result of this fast moving evolution, shortages of adequate skills in some sectors or occupations already co-exist with unemployment across the EU.

To provide job opportunities for all and create a more competitive and sustainable economy, Europe needs a highly skilled workforce able to meet current and future challenges. To ensure this, it is urgent to invest in the right skills and improve matching of jobs with these skills in the EU, by effectively anticipating future trends.

A joint policy initiative carried out in cooperation between the European Commission and the EU Member States, New Skills for New Jobs aims to address some of these issues by supporting EU countries and regions in developing more effective ways to analyse and predict which skills will be required in tomorrow's labour markets and, with this knowledge, developing and adapting education and training so that the workers gain the skills required.

**Actions**

Chair WGE will develop a specific plan for contribution to New Skills/New jobs initiative with Brussels in February 2011.

Chair WGE will organise expert-meeting in 2011, simultaneous with SAF-meeting.

	<p><b>5. Chair</b></p> <p>Rotterdam agreed to chair the WGE in 2010 and 2011 and will undertake the necessary actions for establishing relationships with cities that want to participate in the WGE. The WGE has expressed a special interest in the participation of southern or eastern European cities. Rotterdam will also conduct a partner-search in 2011 for a co-chair and future chair, if possible also from a southern or eastern European city. Rotterdam will report the findings in the meetings of WGE.</p> <p><b>4. Next meetings WGE (+ other relevant meetings)</b></p> <p>February 2011      Rotterdam, WGE-meeting on finalising reports on the responses to the crisis and local job centre comparison -</p> <p>March 2011        Grenoble : SAF + Expert-meeting for interested WGE-members on New Skills/New jobs initiative</p> <p>April 2011         (Tbc) Expert-meeting on employer-involvement for interested WGE-members</p> <p>May/June 2011    Rotterdam , Fit-4-Work (funded by Rotterdam) for interested WGE-members</p> <p>September 2011: Rotterdam , Fit-4-Work (funded by Rotterdam) for interested WGE-members</p> <p>Autumn 2011 (Tbc) Two expert-meetings for finalizing report with recommendations future ESF /PROGRESS ) for interested WGE-members</p>
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<b>WG Title: Health and Wellbeing</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Social Affairs Forum



<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Rotterdam
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	
<b>4. Actions and expected outputs in 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exchange of information on substance abuse</li> <li>- Follow up to campaign</li> </ul>

<b>WG Title: Roma and related inclusion issues</b>	
<b>1. Forum</b>	Social Affairs Forum
<b>2. Chair City:</b> (Name of officer and city)	Lead city to be identified
<b>WG Objectives, Actions and Outputs</b>	
<b>3. Objectives of the WG</b>	
<b>4. Actions and expected outputs in 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peer reviews</li> <li>- Influencing EU policy development (policy development in this area is currently very active at EU level)</li> <li>- Strategic level thinking on this issue</li> </ul>

**Discussion and learning points raised**

- We need to consider the possible role of Eurocities in the lobbying at EU level. But it is a busy field with established agencies already active. Eurocities will need to be careful and spend time learning, using the OMC [Open Method of Coordination] clarifying its own position and building alliances first. Working with agencies like ERIO will be important.
- Likewise at a city level, learning and building stronger links with Roma communities and agencies is vital.
- There is a definite role for the development of rights and legislation based pressure on countries improve their position on Roma
- We need to understand more about the drivers for migration between particular states.
- We need to learn more about the diversity of Roma and their situations.
- The attitude, understanding and skills of staff working with Roma is vitally important.
- How to we deal with the “catch 22” of a countries or a city being welcoming to Roma and then being faced with more migration than they can cope with?

What should the balance of European strategy be? Improving the situation in countries of origin in East Europe or improving the situation in receiving countries in West Europe?