



LOCAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT

EUROPEAN NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015



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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	p.3
REVIEW OF THE YEAR	
• POLICY DEVELOPMENTS	p.4
• ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & STUDY TOUR 2014	p.8
• OPEN DAYS 2014	p.10
PROJECTS	
• MORE WOMEN IN EUROPEAN POLITICS-MORE WOMEN IN 2014	p.13
• DIVERSITY, DEMOCRACY, RESPECT	p.15
• LEGAL BUT LETHAL	p.16
• EUROCIT	p.17
• UNHEARD VOICES	p.18
• EUROPE FOR CITIZENS	
CLIMATE EXPRESS	p.19
YOUTH FLASH	p.20
• TAPAS (There Are Plenty of AlternativeS)	p.22
MEMBERSHIP	
• EXECUTIVE BUREAU	p.23
• MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	p.24



By Carla Taveres, president of LUDEN

"The past year has been one of development for the network. Following our change in focus and business model, we have firstly undertaken a major revamping of our website and started the process of engaging with existing and potential members in order to explain the changes and implications. What is clear is that the ongoing impact of the crisis is continuing to make it difficult for many local authorities and NGO's to maintain their commitment to working at EU level.

These are hard times and the end of recession still seems far away especially at local level, where budgets have been cut in line with macro policy decisions relating to the Eurozone. Despite this context, however, the network has continued to develop projects that address the key transitions that local authorities are facing. As such, it is pleasing to see that we continue to attract a wide cross section of stakeholders to participate and contribute as partners in our projects. The new funding period has just started even though formally it began in 2014. The next 12 months will offer many opportunities for the network to develop and secure funding for projects that address our priorities of addressing the challenge of climate change, how to address the frankly catastrophic situation facing large numbers of young people, how to tackle and respond to growing inequalities and poverty and how can we use new technology more effectively to address such issues. "

TWO: REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2.1 POLICY

The main focus in terms of policy development over the past year has been the consultation and development of the new urban agenda. The context to this discussion is very clear. Europe continues to be faced with challenges related to the economy, the climate, the environment, and society at large. Most of these challenges have a strong urban dimension. With almost three quarters of Europeans living in cities, it is clear that Europe needs its cities to win its battles. Without them, Europe will not meet its goals. This has been widely recognised and has triggered many important urban initiatives both at the EU and at the national level.

For this reason the EC has argued that we need an EU Urban Agenda so that cities can provide their input and expertise in developing and putting EU policies into practice and, in turn, that these are better adapted to urban realities.

The rationale is clear for such an agenda. Economic, social and territorial cohesion all have a strong urban dimension. As the vast majority of Europeans live in or depend on cities, the development of urban areas cannot be isolated from the wider European policy framework. Decisions taken at EU level have an increasing impact on the development of cities, through Cohesion Policy, but also through a wide spectrum of sectorial policies.

More and more EU policies explicitly target urban areas: Environment, Energy, Transport, Information Society, Climate Action, Education and Culture, etc. and support initiatives such as Green Capital Award, Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership, the Covenant of Mayors or European Capital of Culture. Many other EU initiatives or directives implicitly target urban areas, e.g., noise and air quality directives, migration policies, climate change adaptation etc., which, although not urban *per se*, in practice chiefly concern urban areas.

The new proposal in particular recognizes the role of cities. **Cities have a key role to play in addressing global challenges and implementing the Europe 2020 strategy.** The objectives set cannot be achieved without the active involvement, commitment and ownership of cities. For this to happen, policy objectives, instruments and implementation have to be adapted to the realities of cities.

An EU urban agenda could help to consolidate the urban dimension of European policies, especially in relation to the Europe 2020 strategy. It could reduce compartmentalized policymaking and pave the way for overall European objectives to be better articulated with tangible local goals. It could be associated with a drive to spread understanding of the dynamics of urban development at all policy levels, through greater exchange of knowledge. In this way an EU urban agenda could be used to support cities' own efforts for sustainable development.

An EU urban agenda could be instrumental in supporting different tiers of governance to work together towards longer-term shared objectives. A greater understanding of cities' role in delivering social, economic and environmental gains should help to align local, national and EU policy, bringing greater coherence and impact. An EU urban agenda could also provide a framework for local commitment and action on increasingly complex urbanization challenges. Tools like the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities or collective movements like the Covenant of Mayors support cities' individual action towards shared objectives.

The European Commission adopted a Communication in July 2014 launching a public consultation on an EU Urban Agenda. Its purpose was to widen the debate to all relevant stakeholders, to gather their ideas, and to further clarify the rationale for an EU Urban Agenda, what its objectives should be and how it could function.

The consultation generated some interest. In total, 225 responses were received. However, the analysis showed that the majority of responses came from just 8 member states which all were from the “old” EU 15. Nevertheless one of the key messages that emerged from this consultation was the identification of some key priorities; The main **key priority areas** emerging from the consultation are largely in line with the Europe 2020 objectives and

many of the priorities of the Commission, not least the Jobs Growth and Investment, Energy Union and Climate, the Digital Single Market, Migration and Democratic Change:

- **Smart** – *Low carbon, low waste and smart flow cities*: the main concern of respondents was to get the management of especially energy and transport as efficient as possible based on smart infrastructure solutions. This includes efforts in support of sustainable urban mobility and accessibility, energy efficiency and use of renewable energies, and builds on the digital agenda.
- **Green** – *Environmentally-friendly, climate resilient and compact cities*: the main concern of respondents was that urban development needs to rely more on green infrastructure and nature-based solutions as a response to heat-waves, drought and flooding, pollution peaks, etc. It is also about short circuit food production, minimising sprawl, land-take and soil sealing, as well as conserving the habitat.
- **Inclusive** – *Living, caring, inter-generational cities*: the main concern of respondents was to have cities that are open and inclusive, in which all inhabitants take part in society regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, culture, etc. This also includes quality of life issues related to affordable housing, neighbourhood regeneration, and access to services, local economic development and jobs.

The main characteristic of the challenges identified by the respondents is that sectorial action is not enough to address them effectively, and initiatives which cut across sectorial boundaries are required.

In June 2015 the EC held the second cities forum in order to further develop the EU Urban agenda. There were a number of questions raised during the forum:

1. How can an EU Urban Agenda support cities in the transition from an economy based on growth to one based on development without growth?

The dominant mind-set is still trapped in the growth paradigm. Growth must be achieved at all costs. When growth is achieved; societies are said to be successful; when it is not, they are said to be failing.

The current consultation simply assumes that better co-ordination, governance, measurement, efficiency, productivity and innovation will cure our urban towns/cities of the

social, environmental and economic blight that is a hall mark virtually everywhere in Europe. The modern ruins of Europe are everywhere to be seen. They are the relics of an unsustainable economic model that is simply about the bottom line and to hell with the consequences socially or environmentally. We are living in post peak oil and post peak growth period. In even the best-performing economies, such as Germany, growth since the 2008 crisis has been so slow that, in any other circumstance, it would be rated as dismal.

Even the OECD in its predictions for the world economy until 2060 published in June this year, states that global growth will slow to around two-thirds its current rate; that inequality will increase massively; and that there is a big risk that climate change will make things worse.

2. How is possible for cities to respond to the growing social economic and environmental challenges they face in the policy context created by austerity?

It is clear that current policy is simply not working. It has created a lost decade and will simply extend this indefinitely. We have created a lost generation, desperately seeking opportunities. Median incomes have stagnated for decades. The economy is in recession and where there has been recovery, the richest 1% have captured 95% of the gains. Millions face chronic unemployment and poverty. Social mobility was already low and is now decreasing. Life expectancy is dropping. The consultation and the communication linked to accompany this have simply failed to address this huge policy failure and its implications for cities. Instead the focus is on Smart and Efficient cities as if somehow this will be the cure. But the kind of efficiency to which this policy aspires emphasizes standardization, simplification, and speed, not diversity, complexity and interdependence. Efficiency in euro speak masquerades as a technically neutral concept when it is in fact politically charged. Instead of connoting the best use of scarce resources to attain a valued end, efficiency has become a code word promoting markets and competition over the public sphere, and profitability above all.

3. An institutional dance around the urban agenda cannot deliver an urban agenda for tomorrow

Given the pace of the institutional dance that takes place here in Brussels then we are talking about an EU Urban Agenda for the period 2020 plus. The current programme will do nothing dramatically different to what has been the pattern for over two decades. An institutional dance between the usual suspects (EP, EC, CoR, CEMR, Eurocities, etc.) will simply be unable to grasp the challenges that we face. They are too locked into the dominant paradigm.

In this context even more need to engage with the new sites of local democracy alongside the decaying old order. By 2020 we need to have an EU Urban Agenda that involves open source citizen's data sharing platforms on key challenges such as climate change and ageing.

None, or very few of the players in the institutionalised dance have the skills and experience related to such developments.

This is not a criticism it just about the speed of technological change linked to the need to find new solutions/approaches in the face of growing challenges linked to structural unemployment, environmental costs, health and care services, low carbon economy.

Of course we are not suggesting that an EU wide referendum is held on this matter, but there is need to reach the sub-city level. It is the growing “urban based movements” that are transforming part of the debate at sub city level. Sometimes they even make it onto the city agenda, especially in election times, but for the rest of the time they exist under the radar so to speak.

The current consultation fails to take on board the huge crisis of politics that we have. Trust in our so-called democratic institutions is at an all-time low. Indeed it is our very democratic institutions that have allowed for a massive erosion of rights to take place. Freedom of speech and assembly or the right to privacy have been eroded by the corporate capture of our political institutions. Just look at the rise in extrajudicial mass spying, drone strikes, private security guards, military contractors, or even just the analytics that provide detailed information on what you say, do, and search to both the government and private companies?

An EU Urban Agenda has to be set within a broader parameter which requires political and economic change. The broader parameters have to include:

- A political will to redistribute resources from rich to poor.
- Tackling the corrupt power of corporations by creating an international tax system that prevents revenues being salted away in tax havens.
- Ensuring that trade agreements are not written by multinational corporations.
- Strengthening welfare safety nets and the rights of workers.
- A recognition that both the private and the public sector have a role.

Unless we change the paradigm, then we will simply have more of what is already failing.

2.2 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & STUDY TOUR 2014

On 17-20 June 2014, LUDEN held its **26th AGM and study tour in Birmingham and the “Black Country” (UK).**

The AGM consisted of an overview of key EU programmes for the 2014-2020 period and a summary of the projects and activities carried out by the association.



The theme of the study tour was **the Areas in Decline and Urban Regeneration**, a key element in the new paradigm for local urban development. In keeping with our focus on “managing transitions”, we went to Birmingham the “Black Country” as it is an area that has experienced numerous crisis and in some ways is still seeking to address the implications of these. It has been also the site of the industrial revolution so resonated with all the current policy discussion regarding “re-industrialisation”.

To this concern, Birmingham developed a Conservation Strategy through which seeks to highlight the opportunities provided by its own historic environment. The city has a particularly rich industrial heritage and this Strategy aims to promote urban regeneration within that context, both in the inner city and suburban areas.



The guided walk of Birmingham city center, which focused on highlighting actions taken to regenerate the city, included visits to all the most relevant places (e.g. the library of Birmingham, Gas street Basin and Canals, the Mail Box, etc.).

In addition, the group took a trip on the tram that connects Birmingham with the city of Wolverhampton. During the trip, the guide explained what we saw and the efforts to regenerate in a region that is in decline. Afterwards, a visit to the World Heritage Site of Iron Bridge, known as the symbol of the industrial revolution, took place.



2.3 OPEN DAYS 2014

Workshop: “Local approaches to inclusive entrepreneurship and social cohesion”

Time and date: 9 October 2014;

09:00 – 10:35

Venue: Portuguese Permanent Representation to the European Union



Speakers:

Mr. Haroon Saad, Director of LUDEN (Local Urban Development Network), Belgium

Mr. Roger Horam, Director of Red Lynx Limited, Scotland.

Mr. Ludo Moyersoen, Director of Microstart, Belgium.

Outline:

Inclusive Growth is one of the key pillars of the EU 2020 strategy, how can local authorities and NGO's respond to what is seemingly a crisis without end? We tried to answer to this question presenting two case studies of good practices undertaken in two different European Regions, Scotland and Brussels. Both case studies were targeting young and disadvantaged groups, like ex-offenders, women, first and second-generation immigrants and presenting local solutions to drive social change through economic participation. In Scotland, the Red Lynx Limited developed a project named Recruit with Conviction that had the aim to promote safe, effective and sustainable employment for people with criminal records. In Belgium, Microstart provides a micro-credit support for young and disadvantaged people who want to start a business. They give not only the financial support but also the technical and entrepreneurial assistance to set up and run an enterprise.

Debate/Panel discussion:

Speaker 1: Mr. Haroon Saad

Introduction on European 2020 strategy and next steps to tackle social exclusion and unemployment in Europe. Critical points and possible solutions on how to promote social change following a bottom up strategy. Overview on the role of NGOs and civil society to cooperate with local authorities.

Speaker 2: Mr. Roger Horam

Introduction regarding the criticalities of Scottish government strategy to deliver faster sustainable economic growth with opportunities for all its citizens. Case study on how local NGO managed to drive social change through self-employment in targeting disadvantaged and underrepresented groups in Edinburgh.

Speaker 3: Mr. Ludo Moyersoen

Introduction of the study case in the framework of local and regional state of play regarding young migrants in Brussels. Showing of a short film edited by the beneficiaries of the project. Analysis of Microstart project (microfinance for migrants in the EU) and results after four years of activity.

Conclusions:

The following conclusions emerged:

- Services need to be located in the community and there is need to undertake “social mining”. That is to connect to the social capital that is available.

- Barriers have to be low or non-existent in order to allow for real inclusive entrepreneurship. It is essential to provide access to premises and resources that will enable people to try out their idea.
- The Youth Guarantee will be insufficient to address the issue.

Open Days Off

How we can build a new politics?

Date: 8th October 2014, 18:30-22:00

Venue: Foyer Européen - European Trainees Residence, Brussels

One of the key transitions we face is linked to the lack of sustainability of our current model of economic growth. The financial crisis has exposed how rotten the foundations of the golden decade 97-07 were. The crisis has in turn triggered and accelerated a growing political crisis. A crisis of the institutions of our representative democratic model. A crisis of trust between elected politicians and their respective citizens. The EP is not alone in this process of alienation from the mainstream political parties/institutions. In many European countries we have seen examples of this deep malaise. The malaise in our body politic is also reflected in the rise of new movements and parties which are challenging the status quo and in many cases selecting to be involved politically but through the medium of the mainstream parties.

All of this crisis was graphically captured by the EP elections last year.

Our café style workshop (with music, food and drink) was an occasion to share opinions and discuss on how new politics could be built and what were the steps the new politicians were undertaken.

THREE: PROJECTS

3.1 MORE WOMEN IN EUROPEAN POLITICS – MORE WOMEN IN 2014



Source of funding: DG Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme

Project period: Overall duration - 24 months, from 12 November 2012 to November 2014

Partnership

- LUDEN, Lead partner (Belgium)
- Balkan Assist Association (Bulgaria)
- Forum 50 % (Czech Republic)
- Pro Patria and Res publica Union Women's Organisation (Estonia)
- KMOP (Greece)
- Regional Social Welfare Resource Center (Hungary)
- Sinistra Ecologia e Libertà (Italy)
- Women's NGO Cooperation Network of Latvia (Latvia)
- Center for Equality Advancement (Lithuania)
- Intercultural Institute Timisoara (Romania)
- Alliance of Women in Slovakia (Slovakia)
- The Institute for social creativity (Slovenia)
- Liberal Women (Sweden)
- Ballybeen Women's Centre (UK)

Project summary:

Despite the improvements in addressing inequality between men and women over the past 30-40 years, there is still a long way to go in realizing real equality. Getting more women

into politics is part of the process of making more headway in realizing the goal of gender equality.

In this context and given the orientations of the EU Strategy for equality between women and men – 2010–2015, the overall aim of this project was to achieve greater participation by young women (under 35) in voting in the EP elections and becoming candidates.

The project partnership was unique in that it brought together National /regional NGO's who have a well-established track record in promoting gender equality alongside a range of national political parties who wish to address the issue of gender equality.

Activities:

Partners have established **Women in Politics local groups**, made up of representative from women associations and from political parties. Each partner has produced a **base line study**, providing data and good practice examples on women's presence in politics at EP, national, regional/local levels. Drawing up on evidence arising from the base line study, partners have developed a **campaign strategy** to attract more women in politics. They have also developed a support and **capacity building programme** for women who wish to engage as candidates in European/national/local elections, with the aim to make those women more confident and better prepared to be in politics.

Alongside the activities undertaken by partners at local level, a transnational exchange programme has taken place, in the form of 2 transnational workshops, a women candidate support programme and 3 dissemination events.



The **first transnational workshop** has been organized on 18 and 19 September 2013, in Tallinn (Estonia). The objectives of the workshop were: to exchange good practice in relation to actions taken by political parties to increase greater involvement of women and on using social media to encourage women's participation in politics.

The **second transnational workshop** took place in Athens, from 3 to 4 June 2014. Partners presented the activities undertaken within the project and shared the outcomes of the EP elections in their country in terms of gender equality.

Three **dissemination events** (in Berlin on 28 March 2014, in Lisbon on 09 May and in Birmingham 18 June) were (will be) organized with the aim to disseminate the project outside the project partnership, in order to share best practices and to create synergies.

A **women candidate support programme** has been held in Bruxelles (31 March-4 April) addressed to a cross parties group of 13 **actual and would be candidates** for EP elections, coming from the 13 project member States. The programme included a coaching session based on the Inspire and Equip modules, by trainers from Women for Election; a “hands on” session on facebook and twitter as tools for successful campaigning; the participation in the EP plenary session; a speed dating session with MEPs from different countries and political parties.



Project Coordinator: Francesca Centola (f.centola@ludenet.org)

Facebook Group: [More women into politics working group](#)

Project website: <http://www.ludenet.org/projects/wiep>

Twitter account: [#morewomenintopolitics](#)

3.2 Diversity, democracy, respect

The overall goal of this proposal is to counter the racism and in particular, extreme racism has resurfaced dramatically across many member states in Europe. In 2013, the Fundamental Rights Agency annual report highlighted that there had been a dramatic increase across several member states of groups campaigning on ultra-nationalist and xenophobic platforms initiating steps to be recognized as political parties in their own right,

sometimes with success. In the 2014 EP elections, the results of this process literally exploded into the heart of EU institutions. The results show a significant increase for the nationalist far right.

In addressing this overall goal the project undertakes the following activities: supporting local consortiums of organisations in 8 member states where there has been an increase in the rise of racial extremism to undertake a number of actions; undertaking a transnational exchange of good practice and experience between the partners and which also involves inputs from organisations not in the partnership; disseminating widely the products that will form the output of the project.

The target groups selected are political parties, NGO's working on anti-racist issues, researchers and online activists.

The expected results are : securing the commitment of mainstream political parties in the eight member states where the project will operate to sign up to the Charter of European political parties for a non-racist society; improving awareness and knowledge amongst key stakeholders in the eight locations where the project will be implemented; building community capacity through the provision of workshops and online actions; developing a better understanding of why people, especially the young, are attracted to support racist political groups/political parties.

The outputs to be produced are: two workshop reports, eight local survey results, two workshop reports focused on best practice, two transnational workshops, one transnational dissemination workshop, eight local/regional dissemination events.

The Partnership is composed by: CESI - Centar za edukaciju, savjetovanje i istraivanje (Hungary), Center for the Study of Democracy (Bulgaria), Roma Media Centre (Slovakia), BRAP (United Kingdom), Greek Forum of Migrants (Greece), Cooperativa sociale "Progetto Integrazione" (Italy), Romea (Czech Republic), ROMEDIA FOUNDATION (Hungary), CENSIS (Italy).

3.3 Legal but lethal

Current information through Eurobarometer surveys in 2011 and 2014 have indicated that there is an increase in the use of "legal highs" by young people.

The activities of this project are several. A qualitative and quantitative survey it is undertook in four locations in order to add value and depth to the trends identified in the Euro barometers survey. In the same locations, the survey is link to a small-scale pilot intervention, which targets young people in school and NEETS. It is organized a transnational exchange programme which focuses on exchange of good practice-approaches that work with the target groups. Finally, the evaluation of the outcomes and dissemination of outcomes will be widely analyzed.

The proposal seeks to improve the understanding of level of usage and routes of supply by focusing on two groups of young people-those who are in school but at risk of early school leaving and /or with low educational attainment and those who are in the NEETS group. The partnership is located in countries in which there is evidence that legal high usage and availability has increased. In each of the four location, it expected to reach 2000-3000 young people from the two target groups.

The expected results are to raise awareness of the health risks of legal highs among the target group and to contribute to available data on how young people are accessing legal highs.

The outputs produced will be two workshop reports; four local survey results; examples of “what works”; four evaluation reports; two transnational workshops; one transnational dissemination workshop.

The partnership was composed by: JZ Socio (Slovenia), ANDALUSIAN FEDERATION ENLACE (Spain), Poleski Ośrodek Sztuki (Poland), Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign (Ireland).

3.4 Eurocit

This proposal brings together a partnership based four urban areas in which there is a high level of non-national EU citizens and low levels of registration as voters in order to enhance civic and political participation locally. In each location, a Local Action Group (LAG) is established, which will bring together the partners/associate partners, local authority departments involved in local elections voter registration, associations of non-national EU citizens, organizations working on citizen participation. LAG’s will have direct involvement from the target group.

Each LAG will undertake the following key actions: undertaking a bench mark study which will incorporate existing data in respect of the target group (numbers, country of origin, gender, age); undertaking a local capacity and bridge building programme of actions; linking the activities and actions in order to increase the numbers of non-national EU citizens who are registered to vote; producing an evaluation report that will summarize the work undertaken, make recommendation for future actions and provide a detailed breakdown (age, gender and EU nationality) in respect of non-national EU citizens who were “reached” by the local actions undertaken.

The Dissemination and Communication plan is focused on targeted dissemination to 13 other urban locations which share the profile of the partners in respect to numbers/percentage of non-national EU citizens.

The target groups are Non National EU Citizens living in the four cities, local authority departments responsible for local election registration, associations of non-national EU

citizens operating in each city, local associations involved in supporting migrants, local associations involved in local politics.

The expected results are: an improved capacity of local associations working to support the effective integration of the target group into local civic and political life; an improved co-ordination between local authorities and NGO's in order to provide support and advice to the target group; creation of linkages between associations of the target group and the associations involved in promoting participation in local political involvement; identification of good practice that can become the basis for mainstream policy within the local authorities; an increased voter registration for local elections within the target group.

The outputs to be produced will be: the creation of an online platform that will facilitate the targeting of non-national EU citizens by local associations and the local authority in each of the four localities; the production of good practice case studies report; 4 local bench mark surveys; four local evaluation reports which will provide disaggregated data by nationality, age, gender and country of residence and make recommendation for future actions at local and EU level; two transnational workshops involving over 40 delegates; one transnational dissemination event which will specifically target 13 other cities which have similar profiles to partner cities in the project.

Partnership: Brussels Studies Institute (Belgium), Associacio per a la Creacio d'Estudis i Projectes Socials (Spain), Bergisch Universität Wuppertal - Institut für Demokratic (Germany), Moniheli ry, Network of Multiculturla Associations (Finland).

3.5 Unheard voices

In the past few years, there was an emerged growing evidence that girls and young women from some ethnic minority communities (Asian/Muslim) fall through the net of current provision. Their abuse goes unreported and they were not provide with the support they need.

For example, a recent research published by Muslim Women's Network UK reveals that Asian girls are being sexually exploited and authorities are failing to identify or support them. They are most vulnerable to offenders from their own communities who manipulate cultural norms to prevent them from reporting their abuse.

This project seeks to address this problem/need in five locations -Birmingham, Berlin, Leeuwarden, Rome and Paris. In each location, the five local partners of this proposal are all directly involved in working with the target group. They are NGO's but have extensive links and working relationships with public service providers and thus they are well place to deliver the objectives of this proposal.

Given the above problem and needs definition, then this project will undertake the following key actions with the overall goal of improving services for the target group and taking their voice into mainstream provision planning.

In each location, we will establish an Unheard Voices Group (UVG), which will bring together the partners, women's organization and public sector service providers. UVG's will have direct involvement from the target group.

Each UVG will undertake the following key actions: undertake a local mapping and capacity building programme in relation to first points of contact for victims of violence so that they can better meet the specific needs of the target group; develop a programme of empowerment for the target group; undertake a regional/national dissemination event to share the outputs and outcomes of the project more widely; produce an evaluation report of the local actions with recommendations for local stakeholders and also for EU bodies.

The expected results are: improved capacity within local service providers in understanding and addressing the needs of the target group; improved co-ordination between local authorities and NGO's in order to provide support and advice to the target group; creation of linkages between associations of the target group and service providers; empowerment and improved awareness amongst the target group of services and support available.

The outputs to be produced are a local mapping and capacity building programmes; empowerment and support programmes; transnational Workshop reports; transnational workshops with over 40 delegates; regional/national dissemination events; transnational dissemination workshop; final report.

The partnership is composed by: Association des Femmes Euro-Méditerranéennes (France), Muslim Women's Network UK Limited (United Kingdom), Türkisch-Deutscher Frauenverein (Germany), Fier (Netherlands), Associazione ACMID-donna Onlus (Italy).

3.6 Europe for Citizens

3.6.1 Climate Express

Latest evidence is signalling that climate change threats are becoming stronger more quickly than envisaged in the 2007 IPCC report.

Most of Europe's wealth is generated in cities, and urban areas are particularly at risk due to climate change. Cities are sites of high CO2 emissions.

Addressing climate change at city level will be impossible unless decision makers engage with its citizens. The level of engagement cannot simply be one-dimensional. Urban social movements have proliferated across EU cities. Such movements are inherently political BUT are disconnected from mainstream politics.

Next year will see the COP 21 in Paris. There is considerable concern amongst activists as to whether COP21 will be a success. The experience of COP 20 in Copenhagen has left concerns as to whether COP 21 will bring about the required deal on CO² reduction. There is therefore a need to mobilize the voice of EU citizens and feed into the COP process.

Given the above context, we wanted to create a partnership that brings together young people (18-29) from six locations across the EU where climate change has arrived.

The overall aim of the proposal would be to:

Empower young people in respect to EU policies on climate change and also the process of the COP in Paris. Enable discussion and exchange between the young people in the six locations and support them in undertaking actions in their locality in order to raise awareness of the COP and what the EU is proposing.

To enable a group of young people to travel to COP 21 by train as kind of climate express. This would provide a means for raising awareness and support during the journey and enable more young people to join the Climate express.

To achieve these overall goals the project envisages the following key actions:

1. Each partner will establish some kind of “action group”.
2. Each partner would have resources to participate and create an online programme
3. Each partner will have the possibility to develop action(s) which create social innovation in coming up with ideas that can reduce CO² emissions in their institution or wider community.
4. Each partner would put together a report that would capture the actions supported and the elements issued from the online programme they found most interesting/relevant and what recommendation they make to the EU institutions.
5. Each partner would send a delegation of five delegates to The COP 21 in Paris. This would be by train.

The partnership is composed by: Asociatia Grupul PONT, City of Cluj-Napoca, Romania; Initiative for democratic socialism, City of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Innowave Varna 2017, City of Varna, Bulgaria; Climate Express, City of Brussels, Belgium; A Sud - Ecologia e Cooperazione ONLUS, City of Rome, Italy; Institute of Environmental Protection – National Research Institute, City of Warsawia, Poland

3.6.2 Youth Flash

More than 5.5 million young people are unemployed in the EU-28 area today. This represents an unemployment rate of 23.4% (24.0% in the euro area). More than one in five young Europeans on the labour market cannot find a job. 7.5 million young Europeans between 15 and 24 are not employed, not in education and not in training (NEETs). In the

last four years, the overall employment rates for young people fell three times as much as for adults.

These figures constitute a major threat to the European project. The new Juncker Commission has highlighted the need to tackle youth unemployment as a key priority. The YEI alongside the Youth Guarantee and mobility measures are the three main policy actions proposed by the EU. However, the results of 18 pilot actions undertaken through special measures approved by the EP have highlighted the need to engage more effectively with the target group in order to identify actions that can have impact on the job prospects of young people. The European Youth Forum has echoed this need.

Given the above context, this project aims at bringing together young adults from 6 locations within the EU where the levels of youth unemployment are higher than 25%. That is say that they are all areas that are eligible to profit from the YEI initiative and the linked funding.

The overall aim of the project is to engage with unemployed/underemployed young people in order to increase their awareness of what the EU is doing, to address their situation and to get their opinion and thoughts regarding the key issues they face and what ideas they have for addressing their needs. In short to generate some bottom up opinion into EU policies and also concrete ideas that can be implemented at local level through YEI resources.

A key end result will be the generation of ideas for YEI interventions at local level and to share these ideas at EU level.

We envisage the following key actions:

1. Establish in each locality a local action group (LAG).
2. The LAG will undertake at local level a series of actions (workshops, on-line surveys, events)
3. Each LAG will share the outcomes of these actions with each other and this would form the basis of an on-line transnational programme of webinars and social networking using digital technologies
4. Each LAG would produce a "Youth Flash" which would capture from their local perspective the results of actions 2 and 3 above and which would be aimed at raising the issues of young people into the local and EU policy arenas.

The partnership is composed by: PISCESWM c.i.c, City of Birmingham, United Kingdom; KMOP, City of Athens, Greece; Associacio CEPS per a la creacio d'estudis I projectes socials, Barcelona, Spain; Prostor plus o.p.s., City of Kolín, Czech Republic; Programme CJ Alba, City of Alba Iulia, Romania; Ballymun Regional Youth Resource, City of Dublin, Ireland.

3.7 TAPAS (There Are Plenty of Alternatives)

TAPAS is a pilot project on data-driven social innovation, aiming at demonstrating that cities and local community resources can be brought together to enhance well-being, irrespective of or even in absence of economic growth. It aims a decoupling well-being from GDP in urban contexts and to do so, it formulates a city version of the OECD BLI (Better Life Index) where objective and subjective (local values, perceptions, etc.) data are captured, visualised and used to promote action by local stakeholders. The project runs its pilot in the cities of Wuppertal (DE) and Genoa (IT). Both cities commit to establish Open Data Partnerships (ODP), that is an open framework where data related (not exclusively) to relevant local challenges (environment, energy), are acquired and made available to local stakeholders (groups, associations, activists, SMEs, etc.) in a network of networks logic that looks at pooling already existing and often untapped resources on the territories. The OPDs constitute the ecosystem or the digital network of networks in which tactical urban actions fostering behavioural change can take place, both through local government initiatives (e.g. involving schools and universities) or bottom up actions supported by a selection mechanisms of calls for the ODP members. TAPAS capitalises on technical platforms and architecture already developed in the framework of previous CAPs or other social innovation projects. TAPAS relies on three building blocks: socio-economic metrics derived from the BLI and adapted to the urban context for impact assessment; a user-friendly, inclusive, pervasive and extendable network of networks for local action; a continuous engagement strategy, managed by local facilitators to foster data flows and action responses by the communities. TAPAS has huge replicability and dissemination potential, reflected by interest and commitment to collaboration with the OECD, the UN Habitat Forum, ICLEI and other international cities networks.

The partnership is composed by: LUDEN, Brussels, Belgium; University of Reading, Reading, UK; University of Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany; Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, Germany; Censis, Rome, Italy; SWIRRL, Stirling, UK; Open Data Institute, London, UK; City of Genoa, Italy; City of Wuppertal, Germany; CDCA - Documentation Centre on Environmental Conflicts, Italy.

FOUR: MEMBERSHIP

4.1 EXECUTIVE BUREAU

President: CARLA TAVARES

Deputy Mayor of Municipality of Amadora, Portugal

Vice President (Honorary): ROGER HORAM

Cre8te, Edinburgh, Scotland

Honorary Secretary: LUDWIK SZAKIEL

Head of International Cooperation Dept
Starogard Gdanski Municipality, Poland

Treasurer: JORGE MIRANDA

Director of Benfica Foundation, Portugal

Member: JOHN WHITE

Executive Director of PISCESWM c.i.c Birmingham, United Kingdom

4.2 MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

COUNTRY	ORGANISATION
Belgium	Centre public d'action sociale de Charleroi (CPAS)
	Brussels Studies Institute
	Climate Express, NGO
	Municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode
Bulgaria	Municipality of Dobrich
	Balkan Assist Association
	Obshtestven centar za okolna sreda i ustoichivo razvitie /OCOS - Public Environmental Center for Sustainable Development
	Innowave Varna 2017
	Center for the Study of Democracy
	Zelenite (the Greens) Political Party
Czech Republic	Civil Society Development Foundation, NGO
	European Development Agency (EDA)
	Prostor plus o.p.s.
	Romea
	City of Kolín
	Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs
	City of Prague, Department of Social and Health
	Karvina Municipality
	Forum 50 %
	Czech Social Democratic Party (CSDP)
Denmark	Roskilde Universitet – Center for Socialt Entreprenørskab
Estonia	Pro Patria and Res Publica Union
	Pro Patria and Res Publica Union Women's Organisation
	University of Tartu, Department of Sociology and Social Policy
Finland	City of Jyväskylä
	Moniheli ry, Network of Multicultural Associations
	Uudenmaan TE-Keskus (Employment and Economic development centre for Uusimaa)
France	Comité de Quartier de l'Hommelet
	Conseil général de la Seine-Saint-Denis
	Association des Femmes Euro-Méditerranéennes
	Département du Val-de-Marne
	City of Amiens
Germany	ACCEDO
	AWA-Ammersee, Water, Wastewater and Environment

	City of Offenbach / Main
	City of Wuppertal
	Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy
	Bergische University of Wuppertal
	Department G - Research unit civic participation
	Institute for democracy and participation research (IDPF)
	Turkisch-Deutscher Frauenverein
Greece	Kreisausschuss des Odenwaldkreises
	City of Komotini
	Region of Crete
	Municipality of Nea Alikarnassos represented by Heraklion Development Agency
	Municipality of Thessaloniki
	Greek Forum of Migrants
	KMOP
	Municipality of Heraklion
	ASDA - Association for the Development of West Athens
	Heraklion Development Agency- HDA
	University of Western Macedonia
	Cretan Social Policy Network of Local Administrations, "KOINO.POLITI.A. of Crete"
	Ano Liosia attiki
	Amaroussia Municipality
	Family and Childcare Centre- KMOP
	Research Center for Gender Equality (KETHI)
Hungary	Kopint Datorg Foundation, Budapest
	Institute of Sociology at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
	CESI - Centar za edukaciju, savjetovanje i istraivanje
	ROMEDIA FOUNDATION
	JOL-LET Foundation
	Soteria Foundation, NGO
	Equal Opportunity Office of the Municipality of Budapest
	Campus of Debrecen Nonprofit Public Benefit Ltd
	Studio Metropolitana, Budapest
	Regional Social Welfare Resource Center of Budapest / BSZF
	Free People for Hungary – Liberal Party
Ireland	Dodder Valley Partnershp
	Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign
	Ballymun Regional Youth Resource

Italy	City of Lecce
	City of Genoa
	Cooperativa sociale "Progetto Integrazione"
	Municipality of Rimini
	CDCA – Documentation Centre on Environmental Conflicts
	Euroconsult, Enna
	Rete Sociale Monti – Dipartimento di Studi Urbani – Università Roma 3
	Associazione ACMID - donna Onlus
	CENSIS- Fondazione Centro Studi Investimenti Sociali
	A Sud - Ecologia e Cooperazione ONLUS
	City di Crotone
	Municipality of Milano
	Sinistra Ecologia e Libertà
	Fondazione Brodolini –Roma
Latvia	Lielvarde Municipality
	The Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments
	Women's NGOs Cooperation Network of Latvia (WNCNL)
	Social Democrat Party CONCORD
	Zatlers Reforms Party
Lithuania	Kaunas University of Technology
	Center of Information and Support for Large Families
	Center for Equality Advancement
	Lithuanian Social Democratic Party
Netherlands	Fier
Poland	City of Starogard Gdansk
	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Department for Social Protection
	"Wieś w XXI Wiek" Foundation, NGO
	Lodz City Council
	City Council of Gdansk, Social Policy and Health Protection Committee
	Poleski Ośrodek Sztuki
	Fundacja Nasza Szkoła, NGO
	Institute of Environmental Protection – National Research Institute
	Lublin - Institute for Human Resources Development
	INSTYTUT OCHRONY ŚRODOWISKA - PANSTWOWY
	INSTYTUT BADAWCZY, Institute of Environmental

	Protection
	The Foundation for Social and Economic Initiatives, (FISE), NGO
	Polska Federacja Klubow "Business and Professional Women", Federation
Portugal	Cartaxo Municipality
	City of Amadora
	Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto
	Aveiro Municipality
	Sintra Municipality
	Instituto da Segurança Social
Romania	South Muntenia Regional Development Agency
	General Directorate Managing Authority for Regional Operational Programme, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing
	Harghita County Council
	Alba County Council
	Intercultural Institute of Timisoara (IIT)
	Baie Mare
	Programme CJ Alba
	Avrig Municipality
	Bacău Municipality
	PONT Group
	Foundation for Promoting Regional Agriculture and Economy FAER
	Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies (CRISS)
	The Bacău Local Development Agency (LDA)
Slovakia	Regional Development Agency Senec - Pezinok
	City of Pezinok
	Bratislava Self-Governing Region
	Initiative for democratic socialism
	Roma Media Centre
	Labour Office of Malacky
	European Roma Employment Agency (ERPA)
	Alliance of Women in Slovakia
	Civic Conservative Party
Slovenia	Center of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training
	Zavod Na robu, NGO
	Economic Institute Maribor
	Skala, NGO
	The Association of Societies for Social Gerontology of the Republic of Slovenia
	City of Celje

	RDA of Northern Primorska Region Ltd Nova Gorica
	Energy Agency of Podravje – Institution for sustainable energy use (Energap)
	Javni Zavod Socio, NGO
	Institute for Social Creativity
	Social Democrats
Spain	City of Sevilla
	Area de Gobierno de urbanismo y Vivienda. Direccion General de la Oficina del Centro, Madrid
	CEPS Projectes Socials
	City of Herrera de Los Navarros
	Diputacion Provincial de Huelva
	Associacio per la Creacio d'Estudis i Projectes Socials
	Asociación de Mujeres Empresarias de Sociedades Laborales (AMESAL)
	ALEM, Local Energy Agency Of Murcia
	Fundación universidad empresa de la Región de Murcia – FUERM
	Junta de Andalusia
	ANDALUSIAN FEDERATION ENLACE
	Municipality of Roquetas de Mar
	Sevilla Global S.A.
	City of Santiago
	City of Alzira
	Innovación, Transferencia y Desarrollo (ITD) - Barcelona
Sweden	Umeå
	Lidingo City Council
	Liberal Women in Sweden
	Swedish Liberal Party
The Netherlands	
	Municipality of Den Helder
	SBO – Council for the Education Labour Market in The Netherlands
	Deelgemeente Charlois Rotterdam
	Stichting LOKAAL Rotterdam
	Amsterdam Southeast District council
Turkey	City of Dalaman
	City of Istanbul
	Union of Municipalities of Akdaglar
United Kingdom	Shantona Women's centre
	Sandwell Borough Council
	Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
	Pisces WM
	Barnsley, Department of Public Health

	BRAP
	Muslim Women's Network UK Limited
	City Mine(d)
	Islington training network
	SWIRRL IT LIMITED
	ODI – Open Data Institute
	PISCES WM c.i.c
	Coventry City Council
	Medway-Business Support Kent
	CO2Sense
	Municipality of Ealing
	University of Birmingham
	University of Reading
	City of Wolverhampton
	Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)
	Newcastle City Council
	Ballybeen Women's Centre Ltd
	Democratic Unionist Party



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