



Dear Member,

Welcome to the first Qec ERAN Flash for 2009. This year will be the 20th anniversary of QeC ERAN which we will duly celebrate during our AGM and study tour taking place in June in Brussels this year (the exact dates will still need to be confirmed).

In this issue you will find information about our next [Qec ERAN workshop](#) which will take place in Prague on 18-19 March 2009. The topic of the workshop will be "*Monitoring the Urban Dimension in EU Cohesion Policy: EU 12 perspectives*". The urban dimension in Cohesion policy is also the subject of this month's [feature article](#) which takes a critical look at the so-called "Urban Mainstreaming" of the current programming period.

I look forward to seeing you all at our workshop in Prague next month.

Haroon Saad, Director



In this edition you will find information on the following issues:

MEMBER NEWS

Feature Article

"Mainstreaming the Urban Dimension in EU Cohesion Policy"

Network Developments

- Executive Board Meeting
- Winter Chill
- Staff Developments

Upcoming Network Events

"Monitoring the Urban Dimension in EU Cohesion Policy: EU 12 perspectives" - Prague, 18-19 March 2009

Other Upcoming Events

Agenda

Did you know?

You can click on the blue titles in the overview. It will take you directly to the section!

PROJECT NEWS

Current Projects Update

- Women, Enterprise, Employment in Local Development
- ESIP
- Building Healthy Communities
- Active A.G.E- Urbact network
- INTI
- MILE
- Intercultural Youth Panels
- Local Forums For Developing Participatory Democracy

EU NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

News

Publications

CONTACT INFORMATION

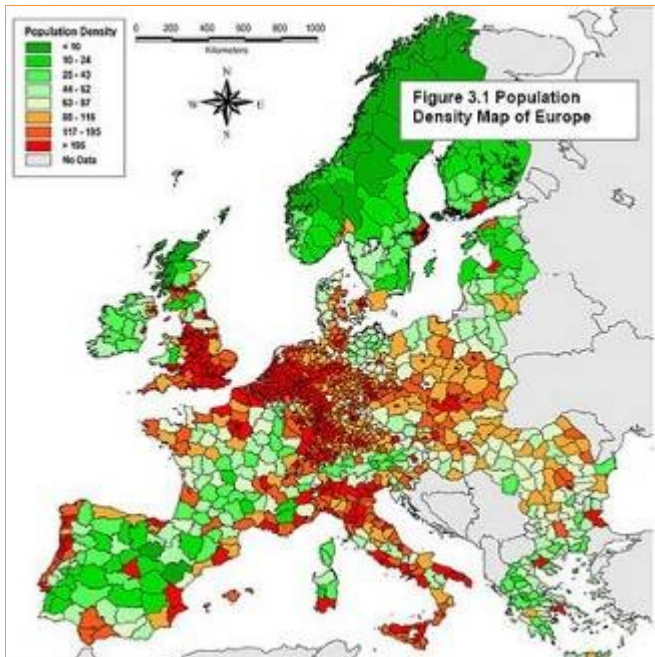
MEMBER NEWS

Feature Article

Mainstreaming the Urban Dimension in EU Cohesion Policy

Cities and metropolitan areas are the engines of Europe's economic development. Today, over 70% of European citizens live in urban areas and most jobs, businesses and higher education institutions are to be found there.

At the same time cities are also the places where the effects of the rapid changes in economic and social conditions are most strongly and directly felt. They are the frontline



in the battle against social exclusion,

environmental degradation and other obstacles to growth and development. Urban areas, and consequently local authorities, are therefore of key importance in realising economic, social and territorial cohesion objectives.

Within EU Cohesion Policy, urban development has clearly moved up the political agenda over the last decades. The [Urban Pilot-Projects](#) (1989-1993), were followed by two generations of the [Community Initiative programme URBAN](#) (1994 and 2006). One of the most important changes to Cohesion Policy in recent years is a more integrated approach to urban development, intended to spread the successful approach of the URBAN programmes to cities and regions across Europe. This so-called "URBAN mainstreaming", was particularly called for in the ["Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities"](#), which was adopted by the Member States in May 2007.

For the current programming period the guiding principles of the URBAN programme, the ["Acquis Urbain"](#), have been integrated into the objectives of convergence and regional competitiveness and employment. Most recently, further steps for the implementation of the Leipzig Charter were adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of Marseille in November 2008.

In the new programming period, the Commission intends to reinforce the place of urban issues in the programmes 2007-2013 which implies several things:

- to increase the importance of urban development in the programming process (NSRF and OPs);



- to promote the concept of integrated urban development;
- to valorise the URBAN *Acquis*, and to open it to a broader range of actions;
- to fully include urban actors in the preparation and implementation of Operational Programmes.

However, the decision to mainstream the urban dimension into national/regional OP's was badly timed. Through the UPPs and URBAN I and II, the EU had successfully created a deep form of "integration" in relation to tackling urban change and challenges. EU15 members had gradually created a shared methodology in terms of the "integrated" approach. In recommending the abolition the URBAN programme in the current programming period the EC has actually "thrown the baby out with the bath water".

Whilst the need to move beyond the "area based" approach of URBAN I and II was required, given the pace of social and economic change in cities, the shift from "area-based" to a sense of no "territorial cohesion", has meant that "mainstreaming" has left behind the good practice. Under the guise of "mainstreaming" the CSG's have in fact allowed the erosion of a specific, well focused and integrated urban dimension in OP's.

Within this context Qec-ERAN is organising a series of events on the "Urban Dimension of EU Cohesion Policy". The objective is to feed the outcomes of these events into the mid-term review of the 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy and

the discussion relating to the new programming period 2013-2019. The programme of events is centred on three crucial questions as concerns the urban dimension in cohesion funds:

- Are member states making use of the greater decentralisation of decision making provided for in the Community Strategic Guidelines?
- Are Operational Programmes addressing urban disparities?
- Are we keeping an integrated approach to urban development?

To date events have been organised in Antwerp and Madrid. The first focused on the Urban Dimension in the NSRF's and OP's in Holland and Belgium, and the second on Spain and Portugal. The next event will take place in Prague on 18 and 19 March 2009 and will focus on the 12 new Member States. You will find more information in the [Upcoming Events](#) section.

Instruments and Tools in the current Programming Period

Around 10% of total allocations under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), i.e. €30 billion across the EU, is now targeted at specific measures to promote urban development.

- [JESSICA](#) (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas), a joint initiative by the Commission, European Investment Bank and Council of Europe Development Bank aimed at facilitating financing of urban renewal




projects through a combination of grants and loans.

- The [URBACT](#) II programme (2007-2013), the Urban Development Network Programme which promotes the exchange of good practice between towns and cities through the creation of thematic networks.
- Regions for Economic Change is a proactive policy tool offered to Member States, regions and cities to help them implement the renewed Lisbon agenda through actions aimed at economic modernization.
- The [Urban Audit](#), a wealth of statistical information to help cities learn from the experiences of other cities facing similar challenges.
- The [Urban Atlas](#), a new database of satellite images of 185 cities, designed to aid city planners in their work.

Documents of interest

Fostering the urban dimension : Analysis of the Operational Programmes co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (2007-2013) – November 2008  [de](#) [en](#) [fr](#)

The Territorial and Urban dimension in the National Strategic Reference Frameworks and Operational Programmes (2007-2013). A first assessment - May 2007  [en](#) (2MB)

[back to table of contents](#)

Network Developments

Executive Board meeting

The next Qec ERAN Executive Board meeting will take place on 17 March 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic. Amongst other issues, Board members will be discussing preparations for Qec ERAN's 20th anniversary celebration, to take place alongside the Annual General Meeting and Study Tour in June in Brussels this year.

QeC-ERAN Winter Chill

Our traditional New Year Chill took place in "le Cercle des Voyageurs" in Brussels on 22 January. After a drink and a bite we started with the "90 Second New Year Policy Predictions" on urban, global and governance issues. These were followed by a lively evening of discussion and networking.



Staff Developments



Lola Uña Cárdenas, our financial and administrative manager and project coordinator for Active A.G.E., has left QeC-ERAN at the beginning of this month. We wish her all the best for the future and professional development.



Daniel Casares from Sevilla (Spain) has joined us in January. He has taken over Lola's role managing our administration and finances and also works as financial administrator in connection with the new projects "Local Regeneration Forums for Participatory Democracy" and "Intercultural Youth Panels". Daniel has a Master's degree in Business Administration and, before entering at QeC-ERAN, he worked in "Villeroy & Boch" in Germany and "Banco de Santander" in Spain.



After a two year trip in Central America, **Laure Marquet** from France has re-joined us at the beginning of this month. Laure studied geography, city planning and city politics in Paris. In Qec ERAN she will assist mainly with project development.



[back to table of contents](#)

Upcoming Events

Next QeC ERAN Workshop: "Monitoring the Urban Dimension in EU Cohesion policy: EU 12 perspectives" Prague, 18-19 March 2009



The next QeC-ERAN workshop will take place in Prague on 18 and 19 March 2009. It forms part of a series of event that we are organising on the theme of the "Urban Dimension in EU Cohesion Policy".

The Prague workshop is an appropriate occasion to see how some of the EU12 member states have addressed the "urban dimension in their NSRF's and Operational Programmes". Representatives from the Ministries responsible for EU Structural Funds from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Romania will present their respective Operational Plans. In addition a great number of interesting EU 27 city/region case studies will be presented, which will be of great interest in terms of exchange of experience, networking and learning opportunities for professional development.

The timing of the conference is also important in that the first results of the consultation on the EC Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion will be available and also Dg Regio and the EP have started the process of discussion in respect of the urban dimension in next programming period.

Amongst the key speakers are: **Dirk Ahner**, Director General of DG Regio, European Commission, **Jean-Marie Beaupuy**, President of the European Parliament Intergroup on Urban Policy and Housing, **Oldrich Vlasak**, MEP, Rapporteur on the Urban Dimension in cohesion policy, **Jan Olbrycht**, Vice President of the EP Regional Policy Committee, **Brian Field**, Director of the European Investment Bank and the five Directors responsible for EU Structural funds More information and the detailed agenda can be found on our website in the [event section>>>](#)

Participation is free for Qec ERAN members. If you have not already registered



please get urgently in touch with the Qec-Eran Secretariat

[back to table of contents](#)

Other Upcoming Events

AGENDA

16-17 February [Regions For Economic Change - Networking for results](#), Brussels

16-18 March: **CINEFOGO Conference: Social Rights, Active Citizenship and Governance in the EU**, Brussels

23-25 March: **Seminar: National policies on the legal status of immigrants**, Maastricht.

25-26 March: **Czech Presidency Conference Flexicurity: Lifelong learning and social protection components**, Prague

6-7 April: [Czech Presidency "Child-friendly Europe" conference](#), Prague

16-18 April: **Czech Presidency Conference International European Conference on Social Economy and Enterprise**, Prague

21-22 April [European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009](#), Brussels

27 April: **Czech Presidency Conference Safety and Health at Work in 21 Century – European Way (Better Regulation and/or Good Practice)**, Prague

27-28 April: [Czech Presidency conference "Building migration partnerships"](#), Prague

28 April: [FEANTSA seminar on local homeless strategies](#), Brussels

22-24 June: **European Social Services Conference: Quality and performance in Social Services in Europe**, Prague

24-25 June: [Employment Week 2009](#), Brussels

[back to table of contents](#)



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Current Project Update

Women, Enterprise and Employment in Local Development (WEED)



The project has been officially approved by the Monitoring Committee the 19th of January 2009 and entered into the second, implementation phase the same day.

The next Steering Group Meeting will be organised in Brussels the 26th and 27th of March 2009.



The communication manager is developing a press-kit to be sent to media contacts in each partner location. A leaflet will be produced as well, giving an overview of the objectives and planned activities of the network. It will be disseminated to all the work contacts and media lists and it will be available in printed version at seminars and other events planned within the project.

The section devoted to WEED project in the URBACT website has just been updated with the latest information.

For more information please contact [Annachiara Pecchini](#) or visit the [project website](#)

Building Healthy Communities



The Building Healthy Communities project has now entered into its implementation phase. The kick-off meeting will take place in Brussels on 18-19 February 2009. Project participants including the associated Managing Authorities will be discussing the forthcoming work programme.



For more information please contact [Isabella Haaf](#) or visit the [project website](#)

Active A.G.E.

After the successful result of the second phase application form, the Active A.G.E. Urbact II



network will hold the kick-off Steering Group Meeting on the 27th of February in Rome.

The three sub-themes will be discussed by the lead expert, and partners will decide together on the subtheme that will be developed at the first transnational workshop in May.

Partners and management team will then concentrate the discussion on the chosen theme to develop ideas for the production of the Action Learning Sets. The management team will support this discussion by presenting the Action Learning Sets methodology and the Local Support Group role at local level.

For more information please contact [Maria Elena Bragaglia](#) or visit the [project website](#)

ESIP

The European Social Inclusion Platform is preparing for the next workshop of the Laps and Raps 2 project, in which it is a partner. The workshop will take place in Lisbon on 11-13 March and will have Active Ageing as its theme



For more information please contact [Janneke Draaisma](#) or visit the [ESIP website](#)

INTI

During the 18 months that we have started to develop the Integration Exchange project, during this time project coordinator Yamina Guidoum, with the support of Qec ERAN team



has managed to successfully prepare and run three Transnational Exchange Workshops on the following subjects:

- Employment and Induction programmes
- Access to Housing , Health and Education
- Intercultural Dialogue and Participation

The major outcome of this exchange programme, is of course the knowledge sharing between the partners of the project. But as the project is now getting close to its end we can also share its results. Final reports from the first and second Transnational Workshop are already available on the Qec ERAN website and the third Report as well as the Final Report are now being prepared.

Apart from the Transnational Exchange Programme, which has been a linking point for the local actors from partners locations, the project has also brought to live an on-line portal for the integration of third country nationals. The portal contains in fact 9 local portals and gives to the migrants in partners' locations a possibility to find all basic information about the host community in their own language. We hope that after the end of the project on the 20th of February, the portal will continue to provide useful information for migrants.

For more information please contact [Karolina Rachwal](#) or visit the [project website](#)

MILE

The third and final exchange workshop took place in Timisoara on the 10th and 11th of December 2008. The theme of the workshop was: "Intercultural dialogue and access to education, health and housing"; that is: how the establishment of intercultural dialogue can facilitate the access of migrants and ethnic minorities to these basic services. The objective of the workshop was for partners to come up with action plan ideas to be funded by the Operational Programmes of the European Structural Funds. The action plan ideas are based on a baseline study, which was conducted at the outset of the project, in 2007.

The main conclusions concerning good practice that arose from the workshop and in the framework of which, partners will develop their action plans are:

- Analyse **WHY** mainstream services are not **reachable** and work to remove the barriers to the access of migrants and ethnic minorities
- Work on **EMPOWERMENT** of people and organizational change instead of assistentialism and charity
- Move a step forward the logic of "**majority-minority**" and consider for instance the contribution of Roma to European music.
- Our nation-states tried to cancel internal differences: *without fixing identities*, we have to learn **how to build a more inclusive collective memory and representation**: We can start by **listening** to people as Roma, recognizing to be at "*ground zero*"



- Use an active **CITIZENSHIP FRAMEWORK** to move from service provider-client relationship but rather consider the clients, in this case migrants and ethnic minorities, as citizens who will take action to bring about change and as agents of transformation.

The next step is the presentation workshop of these action plans which will take place in the lead partner city, Venice at the end of April. The project is due to end in May this year and a closing public conference is foreseen during this month in Brussels.

For more information please contact [Yamina Guidoum](#) or visit the [project website](#)

Intercultural Youth Panels

The Intercultural Youth Panels Project started on the 1st of February 2009. It is being funded under the Europe for Citizens programme (DG EAC), and will last 10 months.

Starting from the assumption that young people should play an essential role in the process of identifying the strengths and opportunities of living in a culturally diverse area, the project seeks to create 6 "Intercultural Youth Pannels" (IYP's) in the different partner locations. The aim of these pannels would be to discuss the potentials and difficulties of belonging to a culturally diverse community. These groups would have to identify what the opportunities that cultural diversity presents in their areas in the development of a sustainable and inclusive city. The Project will be coordinated by Tamara

Hodas Garcia (project coordinator), and Karolina Rachwal (coordination support). More information will be available soon on the QeC-ERAN website.

For more information please contact [Tamara Hodas Garcia](#)

Local Forums For Developing Participatory Democracy

A second new project: "Local Forums For Developing Participatory Democracy", funded under the Fundamental Rights And Citizenship Programme 2007-2013 started in January.

The Project seeks to create a connection between the local and the European level, which will further enhance the sense of ownership and European citizenship, creating a more cohesive European society.

The overall aim of this is to develop innovative approaches to promote participatory democracy at a local/regional level which will increase the participation of young adults (18-30) in the 2009 EU elections AND raise their awareness of their fundamental rights and responsibilities as union citizens.

A transnational capacity-building programme will bring together young citizens and local stakeholders from different European cities

The first Steering Group Meeting of the project took place in Brussels between 25th and 27th of January 2009. It provided the opportunity for the local coordinators to meet and hear about each other's experiences in the field of Participatory Democracy. During this meeting



we agreed on the strategic action plan and we decided to hold our First Peer Review Workshop in European Parliament in the middle of April 2009.

The Project will be coordinated by Karolina Rachwal (project coordinator), and Tamara Hodas Garcia (coordination support). More information will be available soon on the QeC-ERAN website.

For more information please contact [Karolina Rachwal](#).

[back to table of contents](#)

EU NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS



News From The EU Institutions

Commission adopts Lisbon Strategy recommendations

The European Commission finally adopted last week the ["country chapters" and recommendations](#) under the Lisbon Growth and Jobs Strategy, following the delays occasioned by the replacement of the normal "Lisbon" procedure of the analysis of the National Reform Programmes and the Annual Progress Report, as a result of the financial and economic crisis.

According to the Commission, these will also help ensure the European economic recovery plan is implemented in a way that builds for the future as well as responding to the economic crisis. However, The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is concerned that the proposals represent just more "business as usual", and do not reflect any willingness to take on board the lessons of the current crisis - to challenge how far growth alone can deliver on poverty and inclusion, and the limits of the market-only approach.

The country chapters analyse progress in each Member State in implementing the Growth and Jobs Strategy, taking account of the crisis. They include proposals for formal recommendations for endorsement by the Spring European Council. The Commission has also adopted reports on the overall implementation of the Lisbon Strategy in the macro and micro-economic and employment fields.

Czech Presidency of the EU presents its priorities and work programme

After the prolific French Presidency, the Czech Prime Minister Topolánek presented on 6 January the [Czech Presidency's](#) priorities and work programme. The key priorities of the Presidency are the three 'E's': Economy, Energy and Europe in the world, with the motto 'Europe without barriers'.

Fighting the economic crisis will be priority number one. The Czech strategy aims to remove all remaining barriers to the full application of all internal market freedoms. In this vein, the Czech Presidency aims to boost



cross-border service provision by fully transposing the Directive on services in the internal market.

In order to improve the EU's competitiveness, the Czech Presidency will emphasise the benefits of the full liberalisation of the movements of workers and aims to increase employment and labour market flexibility through the implementation of the common flexicurity principles.

Regarding social services, the Presidency will focus on their role as a tool for preventing social exclusion and for active inclusion in the labour market and society, as well as an area of growing employment opportunities.

These priorities have however been criticised as not bringing anything new to the debate.

European Parliament overwhelmingly calls for structured civil dialogue

The European Parliament adopted last week a report by Polish Socialist Genowefa Grabowska MEP, calling for a more structured dialogue between EU institutions and civil society. The report calls for the adoption of an inter-institutional agreement on civil dialogue including:

- binding guidelines concerning the appointment of civil society representatives
- methods for consultations
- funding of civil dialogue

Interviewed by Euractiv, Roshan Di Puppò, Director of the Social Platform said "the Lisbon Treaty recognises that involving citizens beyond traditional representative democracy is actually a fundamental principle of modern democracy. The fact that the European Parliament takes this very seriously and wants to strengthen civil dialogue is very positive since MEPs are the ones representing citizens in the European Union". **See:**

- [Grabowska report on civil dialogue](#)
- [Euractiv article](#)
- The Civil Society Contact Group study "[Civil Dialogue: making it work better](#)"

European Year 2010: guidelines for Member States now available in all languages

Following the adoption of the Decision Establishing the European Year 2010 for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, a Strategic Framework Document setting up guidelines for Member States' preparation (financial envelope, timing, priorities, dialogue with civil society...) was published by the European Commission in November 2008.

The Strategic Framework Document has now been translated in all EU languages and can be downloaded from the EAPN website:: [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [ET](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [MT](#), [NL](#), [PL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SK](#), [SL](#), [SV](#).



Lisbon Treaty: next steps

EU heads of state and governments in December agreed to provide legal guarantees to Ireland that the new EU Treaty would not affect Ireland's neutrality and tax autonomy.

The Czech EU presidency now has the task to develop these provisions. Irish lawyers, the Council's legal services and the European Commission will be working on them. The Irish government has not yet announced a date for the second referendum. It is expected to take place in autumn.

A recent poll showed that a majority of Irish voters may support the Lisbon Treaty in a second referendum. UK conservative opposition leader, David Cameron, has promised to hold a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty in autumn, if his party wins elections earlier in the year. **See:**

- [preparation of the legal guarantees](#)
- [recent Irish poll](#)

EU Civil Society Contact Group and AGE launch European election 2009 toolkit

30 years after EU citizens elected their representatives directly at European Union level for the first time, 2009 will see the European Parliament's seventh elections. They will take place from 4 to 7 June 2009.

On this occasion, the Civil Society Contact Group and AGE, the European Older People's Platform, both released their European elections toolkit.

The [EU Civil Society Contact Group's toolkit](#) consists of four easy to use action and fact sheets. They can be downloaded separately according to your need:

- Action sheet 1 – Why vote?
- Action sheet 2 – How to engage?
- Action sheet 3 – What we expect from future European parliamentarians?
- Fact sheet 4 – What is the European Parliament?

The [AGE's toolkit](#) provides relevant information on the European Parliament (its powers, composition, political groups and parties, etc.), and also bundle good practices and tips to inspire and support your election campaigns on national level.

The 2009 European elections are going to be very crucial as the European Parliament has developed into a crucial actor in EU policy development. The legislative, budgetary and political powers of the European Parliament will even increase significantly when the new Lisbon Treaty will come into force. Yet, while the European Parliament has gained extensive powers over the years and had a key impact on EU policies, voter turnout has constantly fallen.

Homelessness and housing exclusion to be theme of EU "light year" 2009

The social affairs ministries from 27 countries, which are represented in the intergovernmental body called the Social Protection Committee, have decided that "homelessness and housing exclusion" are to be a priority theme in the EU



social inclusion strategy in 2009. This means that all countries will carry out stocktaking exercise to collate information on their homeless policies, homeless data, and governance issues in tackling homelessness.

The results of this stocktaking exercise will be available at the end of the year and will feed into a Joint Report on social inclusion to be published by the European Commission and the Council of Ministers early 2010. In addition, there will be small research seminars organised on this theme during the course of 2009 as there is currently research underway: one study is focusing on the relation between housing exclusion and the labour market, while the MPHASIS project is focusing on developing methodologies to build capacity of EU countries to measure homelessness.

FEANTSA releases recommendations on access to employment for people experiencing homelessness



Existing employability initiatives usually fail to reach out to the most excluded groups, such as people experiencing homelessness. In a [recent policy statement](#), FEANTSA sets out recommendations for Member States and the European Union to make employment policies for people experiencing homelessness more effective in the future.

The recommendations are based on the findings of FEANTSA's European Report 2007 "Multiple Barriers, Multiple Solutions".

Alter EU: "Commission's lobby register fails transparency test"

Alter EU, a coalition of NGOs working on lobbying practices and transparency, published a first assessment of the European Commission Lobby Register. It found that the voluntary approach is failing: the compliance rate is low and the overall quality of information disclosed is very poor.

- Read the [Alter-EU report](#)
- Want to set the standards for transparency? Follow the [EU Civil Society Contact Group/Alter-EU guidelines to register!](#)

[back to table of contents](#)

Publications

1,130,000 more EU citizens unemployed compared to same time last year

Unemployment steadily goes up in the European Union according to Eurostat. The EU 27 unemployment rate was 7.2% in November 2008; it was 6.9% a year before.

In November 2008, 17,466 million men and women were unemployed in the EU. Eurostat also observes that there has been an increase of 274,000 compared with October 2008.



Compared to a year ago (October 2007), the unemployment rate went up by 1 134 000 in the EU 27. The highest increases were in Spain (8.6% to 13.4%) and Estonia (4.1% to 8.3%).

See [Eurostat press release](#)

European Commission report on diversity and business

The European Commission recently published a report entitled: "Continuing the Diversity Journey - Business Practices, Perspectives and Benefits".

The publication brings together surveys analysing issues relating to diversity in the workplace, with a particular focus on the business case for diversity in SMEs, diversity, innovation and productivity in the workplace, diversity charters and diversity and business schools.

The overall goal of this publication is to provide guidance and support to companies in different stages of implementing diversity in the workplace.

[Download the report](#)

IOM report on irregular employment of immigrants in the EU

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has published a report entitled "Addressing the Irregular Employment of Immigrants in the European Union: Between Sanctions and Rights" as a follow-up to the IOM

conference of last April about "Combating Irregular Employment of Immigrants in the EU".

The project has studied the current realities and new policies in seven European countries (Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Romania and Spain) vis-à-vis the researched topic, i.e. irregular employment of immigrants.

[Download the report](#)

YFJ report on racism and its impact on young people

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) recently published the report: "Racism and its impact on young people - Call for a renewed youth commitment".

The report highlights the effects of racism, discrimination and other forms of intolerance in different areas of life and their negative impact on young people: from the difficulties experienced to get a decent job to the obstacles in accessing sexual and reproductive services, and from bullying at school to hate violence and crime.

[Download the report](#)

EPC report on the impact of the global financial crisis on the world's poorest

The European Policy Centre (EPC) has published the report of its Policy Dialogue: "The impact of the global financial crisis on the world's



poorest" which took place on 16 December 2008.

The world's poorest people and countries will be particularly badly affected by the global economic crisis, coupled with recent increases in fuel and food prices, speakers told the Policy Dialogue, organised with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. It also will lead to cuts in Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) from richer countries, exacerbating the situation. The EU could help to mitigate the impact of the downturn by strengthening international coordination to resist calls for a reduction in ODA.

[Download the report](#)

FEANTSA's access to housing anti-discrimination toolkit online



Exclusion may take the form of discrimination along a number of dimensions and discrimination can contribute to housing exclusion. FEANTSA's new toolkit, which is aimed at organisations providing services to people who are homeless or faced with housing and social exclusion, gives an overview of available international tools to tackle housing discrimination.

[Download the toolkit](#)

FEANTSA: 'Effectiveness of Policies and Services for Homelessness'

The European Journal of Homelessness, Volume 2 is now available! Entitled 'Effectiveness of Policies and Services for Homelessness', the Journal provides a critical analysis of policy and practice on homelessness in Europe for policy makers, practitioners, researchers and academics.

The aim is to stimulate debate on homelessness and housing exclusion at the European level and to facilitate the development of a stronger evidential base for policy development and innovation.

Each article is also available electronically on the [FEANTSA research subsite](#).

Report on benchmarking integration governance in Europe's cities

"Benchmarking Integration Governance in Europe's Cities: lessons learned from the INTI-Cities project" is the final report of the INTI-Cities project, which aimed to provide a platform for municipal integration experts to meet with counterparts in other cities and find inspiration in approaches to local integration policy taken elsewhere.

The ambition was to organise this exchange in an intensive and focused way. To this end, the project chose to implement a peer review process based on a common benchmark and standardised methodology. This publication aims to share the wealth of learning that was generated through the project, reflecting on



peer-reviews as a tool for mutual learning, and on the lessons learnt about how cities can set up appropriate structures for successful integration governance.

[Download the report](#)

[back to table of contents](#)



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