

FIN-URB-ACT

Thematic Paper V

Work Group on Small Scale Projects



FIN-URB-ACT Thematic Paper V

FIN-URB-ACT network
Aveiro meeting – June 2009

The paper summarises the main issues in the survey that is being elaborated within this work group.

During the kick-off meeting in Aachen, several Cities had declared that they intended to conduct a common survey on the expectations of their SMEs and potential entrepreneurs: this meeting in Aveiro was mostly dedicated to the definition of the survey parameters:

Cities	Interested in survey	Main focus
Gliwice	Yes	All types of SMEs
Aveiro	Yes	Have conducted 2 LSG meetings already. Interested in survey focused on start-ups and young entrepreneurs, and unemployed (especially qualified unemployed) Local industrial associations, especially AIDA, have conducted several surveys on their members (industrial businesses) Aveiro wishes to develop cooperation with IAPMEI – national public institution- that delivers relevant support to SMEs. IAPMEI with their regional representatives, regularly conduct surveys on business panels.
Galati	Possibly	Have already conducted a survey on 80 businesses about the impact of the crisis. Not interested in access to finance (mainly to avoid raising expectations that could not be met later on) but interested in product adaptation, full use of existing resources, environment protection. Businesses declared that main issues concern access to market (commercial) and workforce.
Edinburgh	No	Have conducted on LSG meeting: the situation of the local banks is the main current concern.
Leipzig	No	But interested in survey outcome
Maribor	Yes	Focused on business internationalisation, import-export, staff > 3 people
Reims	Initially no but finally yes	Focused on Reims main target businesses: new entrepreneurs
Rome	No	Have started with the LSG, including Universities. Prepare a map of existing instruments to support micro-businesses.

The Lead expert will prepare a draft questionnaire that will be submitted to all interested Cities: it should cover inter alia:

- grants/ subsidies with lever effect on equity,
- loans: grace period, refunding period, guarantees, procedures,
- Equity, business angels,
- Leasing,
- Fiscal incentives,
- Provision of infrastructures, low cost facilities,
- Provision of services: information: centralised service, network, type of advisory services

The draft questionnaire will be comprehensive but Cities will select the aspects they are most interested in. It will be sent to the Cities by the end of June.

URBACT II

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal challenges. It helps them to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 181 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants

www.urbact.eu/project



EUROPEAN
PROGRAMME
FOR
SUSTAINABLE
URBAN
DEVELOPMENT

