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# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 3



NeT-TOPIC

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# LEAD EXPERT'S NOTE

## SHARING SOLUTIONS FOR URBAN COHESION IN NET TOPIC CITIES

Linking City Partners' Local Action Plans to NeT-TOPIC's Strategic Themes

*By Fernando Barreiro,  
NeT-TOPIC's Lead Expert*

During the third semester of the Implementation Phase, NeT-TOPIC partners focused especially on activities at local level. An example of this is the 1st workshop/lab held in Haidari. Within the context of this event, partners carried out an individual exercise to examine how each of them was dealing locally with NeT-TOPIC themes. Here are some of the conclusions.

Several cities belonging to NeT-TOPIC have not yet clearly established their own strategies, their new functions or their new potential roles within the metropolitan regions that are undergoing a process of reshaping and transformation. Although all partner cities are seeking to diversify their activities in order to become more multifunctional, this strategy does not always have practical support, since urban projects do not always contribute to a clear strategic goal at local level.

NeT-TOPIC cities' links with their respective central cities is one of the most specific and complex issues. They are usually shaped by the course of history and institutional framework at national level, as well as by the decentralization process in the public sector and the urban management model in each national state. We can focus on cities that in the past should to be shaped as suburbs of the central city, such as Nanterre, L'Hospitalet, Barakaldo and Sesto San Giovanni.

The presence of wide reaching infrastructures in the central city and fragmentations within the territory that these infrastructures affect are often common features, and key elements in their urban identities. These urban fragmentations create isolated areas and produce a sense of unstructured territory without cohesion. Nanterre is a striking example of fragmentation, which has impeded the creation of a sense of identity in the city. This is also the case in Haidari, where the local authorities are currently building several pedestrian bridges that should help to integrate the isolated areas. These areas were fragmented by a main road which divides the territory in several parts, complicating traffic flow and accessibility.

Although there are some clear differences between them, all cities belonging to NeT-TOPIC are searching for new urban strategies to transform the historical development of their respective metropolitan areas. In other words, they are looking for new identities within the framework of urban transformations. It is very interesting to observe how some cities are building new central areas that are playing a strategic role in the metropolitan context. Plaça Europa and the Gran Via in L'Hospitalet or Salford Quays and Media-CityUK in Salford are exemplary flagship projects that have had a great impact on the urban transformations in their cities, and in the metropolitan context, while at the same time contributing to building their new identities.

Nearly all the NeT-TOPIC cities are aware that new urban identities should be strongly linked to new urban assets that ensure high quality urban structures for their inhabitants. Sacele, Kladno and Haidari are developing green areas, as well as sports, services and leisure opportunities for inhabitants.

Metropolitan governance becomes a key issue as far as identity and urban transformation are concerned. Local and metropolitan strategies may sometimes contradict each other, and there may also be a kind of tension relating to competition and collaboration between the city and the region (or metropolitan area). Peripheral cities belonging to a metropolitan region cannot produce their own city projects independently. Indeed, several advantages arise from working together on a large scale, such as, for instance, the location of economic and industrial activities or attractiveness to tourists. Therefore, these issues require cooperation and partnership among local authorities within city regions.

In this sense, several NeT-TOPIC cities have made great efforts to reinforce the personality and identity of their cities. However, the metropolitan functions and the so-called "new urban centralities", erase established administrative borders. Plaça Europa has become an area with a clear metropolitan function beyond its physical location in L'Hospitalet. The same has happened with MediaCityUK in Salford. This is related to new metropolitan spaces and buildings.

# LAST MONTHS

## NeT-TOPIC's FIRST WORKSHOP/LAB, HAIDARI



From 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> February 2010, Haidari organised the first workshop/lab within the framework of the NeT-TOPIC thematic network. The aim of this internal meeting was to combine network partners' local strategies in order to consolidate the Local Support Groups and Local Action Plans.

Following the first year of the Implementation Phase, which was especially focused on working on network sub-themes at project level, special attention will be paid to local activities in 2010. Apart from international exchange activities (between cities from different European countries), every URBACT II partner must set up a Local Support Group composed of local parties directly involved with subjects covered by the project. This group meets regularly to take part in developing a Local Action Plan. The main aim of these two new aspects of the URBACT Programme is to ensure the URBACT projects have a real local impact.



The workshop held for project partners and some representatives from every Local Support Group gave them the opportunity to meet up and discuss the evolution of their Local Action Plans and Local Support Groups, as well as to tie it in with the sub-themes tackled at project level.

The Lead Expert moderated the first day's session, where project partners and ULSG representatives had the opportunity to talk about their local activities and to learn from other partners' experiences and suggestions. Partners also reflected together on how the network themes which are tackled at project level, are applied at local level. The workshop was intended to be an interactive working space where every partner got some added value from the interaction, so they could learn and enrich the actions back in their cities.



On the second day, following a presentation of ULSG activities in the host city and the preliminary structure of the Bank of Urban Transformation Processes (final project output) by the Barakaldo local project coordinator, Mr. Luís Rodríguez, partners had the chance to visit areas in Haidari relevant to the aims of the project, as well as the main urban transformation operations.

For more information, please go to:  
<http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/net-topic/homepage/>  
or contact: [redtrace@l-h.cat](mailto:redtrace@l-h.cat).



NeT-TOPIC

# LAST MONTHS

## SECOND THEMATIC PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE!

The Second Thematic Publication is now available online, produced following the seminar Building New Urban Identities: From monofunctional to multifunctional cities. It can be now accessed via: <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/net-topic/our-outputs/>

The publication includes the papers and conclusions from the Second Thematic Seminar held in Salford (21st-22nd October 2009). The document is arranged in 5 main sections: an introduction by the Lead Expert; the conceptual context of the Seminar's theme; some examples of practices in building new urban identities in NeT-TOPIC cities; exchanging, comparing and learning within the network; and main findings and learnings taken from the Seminar.

*For more information, please go to:*  
<http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/net-topic/homepage/>  
or contact: [redtrace@l-h.cat](mailto:redtrace@l-h.cat).

## BUILDING NEW URBAN IDENTITIES From mono-functional to multi-functional cities

Salford, 21-22nd October, 2009

# LAST MONTHS

## NeT-TOPIC BEGINS WORKING ON THE GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CARRYING OUT URBAN PLANNING PROCESSES AND THE BANK OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES

NeT-TOPIC member cities are beginning to work on two of the network's final products: the *Bank of Urban Transformation Processes* and the *Guidelines and recommendations for carrying out urban planning processes*.

The *Bank of Urban Transformation Processes* aims to include all practices, projects and solutions implemented or designed by partner cities with reference to the network's 5 sub-themes (i.e. tackling urban fragmentation due to road and communication infrastructures; recovering and reconditioning obsolete and industrial areas; developing and consolidating urban identity; planning and managing transformation from a mono-functional to a multi-functional city; and developing new forms of urban and metropolitan governance). The Bank aims to be a tool available to all project partners and all European cities with similar concerns. It will be accessible from the NeT-TOPIC area on the URBACT website.

The *Guidelines and recommendations for carrying out urban planning processes* aims to include conclusions from the partner cities following the exchanges and learning undertaken within the context of the network. The product will be targeted at intermediate, peripheral cities, located in metropolitan areas near a major central city, that are undergoing a city model change process.

The results of both will be presented at the Final Event, to be held in the first semester of 2011 in L'Hospitalet.



NeT-TOPIC

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## LAST THEMATIC SEMINAR ON URBAN AND METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE- CHANGE OF DATE

The third and last Seminar of the thematic network, scheduled to take place in the second quarter of 2010 in Nanterre, will finally be held on **1st / 2nd October 2010**.

The Seminar will centre around Enhancement of new forms of urban and metropolitan governance. All NeT-TOPIC cities are located in metropolitan areas. This key characteristic very often determines the cities' policies and strategies, especially at the current time when city limits belonging to the same metropolitan areas are so "diffuse". Interaction between municipalities and other levels of government is unavoidable nowadays. The seminar will analyse the different levels of government in metropolitan areas and the governance systems, as well as the main challenges and benefits cities face as a result of belonging to these territories. The seminar will also try to analyse new tools relating to territorial governance and urban planning processes at local and metropolitan level, and to improve urban transformation processes, as well as to increase the strategic value of its territory within the metropolitan area, i.e. how to fulfil a new role within their metropolitan areas.

A draft programme will soon be available at NeT-TOPIC's area of the web site.

Further information on the Seminar will be provided in the NeT-TOPIC area at the URBACT II website:

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

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SECOND WORKSHOP/LAB

L'HOSPITALET, NOVEMBER 2010

L'Hospitalet will host the second workshop/lab at the end of November. This will be the final network joint activity before the project's Final Event takes place (scheduled for the first quarter of 2011).

These workshops are platforms aimed at developing the partner cities' local strategies, as well as transferring knowledge acquired at project level through the seminars to local level: the Local Support Group and Local Action Plan.

The aim of this workshop, which will be organised only a few months before all partners finish their Local Action Plans, is a final joint reflection among all project partners, specifically concerning their local work, but also international work, in order to start drawing conclusions for the project's final products and event.





# INTERVIEWS

## Haidari Mayor



In order to invest in the future, instead of just producing a Local Action Plan, the Municipality of Haidari has created a Local Support Group structure including participation by its inhabitants. Haidari's LSG is made up of three structures: the social teams, the LSG Committee and the Core Group.

Inhabitants are given an active role through the 5 social teams. Each team is formed by the main local associations and bodies (social, cultural, professionals, etc.). These teams seek to represent Haidari's inhabitants. Their ideas and suggestions are organised and discussed by the LSG Committee and confirmed by the Core Group.

The LSG Committee comprises one representative from each Social Team and one person in charge (from the Core Group). The Core Group is made up of 13 members from the city council and relevant experts from different fields.

### 1) What are the main objectives of your Local Support Group?

The main objective of our Local Support Group is to collaborate in the creation of our Local Action Plan. The existence of the LSG allows us to publicize our project "Haidari for all" to its inhabitants and to listen to and take their suggestions into account.

### 2) What are the benefits of creating and working with a Local Support Group in your city?

The benefits of creating our USLG are that we now have a direct contact with all the city's inhabitants, and it is a tool which can be used in future initiatives. It has also helped to create a "feeling of cooperation" among the population.

### 3) In terms of the Local Action Plan, what are the main objectives and expected outputs? Which are the main issues and problems the LAP aims to tackle?

The main objective of the Local Action Plan is to kick off a new city model called "Haidari for all", which aims to establish a new city with high quality of life, within the context of a plan based on the main features of its people and structures. We want to "create and elaborate" on the existing local, economical, and political structures within this context rather than "break down and rebuild".

Our LAP is aimed at promoting the city's renewal and encouraging urban cohesion. We aim to acquire a new city profile and work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges by building our new identity based on integration and culture.

### 4) What are your city's main expectations of taking part in the NeT-Topic thematic network?

Our city's main expectation of taking part in the NeT-Topic network is to acquire the knowledge and knowhow for our city's development, and to obtain solutions for major urban challenges with new ideas for transforming our city from mono-functional to multifunctional.

# CITY PARTNER PROFILE

## KLADNO

The city of Kladno is situated 20 km northwest of the Czech capital Prague. It is the largest town in Central Bohemia Region, and it is known for its well-situated location in the centre of the country. The town has an area 3,696 ha. With a population of almost 72,500 inhabitants in the city itself, the city and its suburbs take in more than a hundred thousand inhabitants. The city is characterized by good transportation links, e.g. the modern international airport of Prague-Ruzyně is situated close to Kladno (about 15 km away).

Kladno is one of the biggest industrial centres in the Czech Republic. It has a long industrial tradition, which is why it was known as the "Czech Manchester" within the Czech Republic. There was significant development in the ironworks industry during the second half of the 19th century. The Prague Ironworks Company was located here, as well as one of the most important ironworks in the country, Poldi Ironworks.

Following the political and economic changes that began in 1989, Kladno's economy was deeply affected. Events such as the bankruptcy of Poldi, one of the biggest companies in the country, and the closure of mines resulted in job losses for over 40,000 people. It was a difficult time for the city.

Pre-revolutionary Kladno was characterised by major demolition in the city centre. It was a neglected, dirty and unattractive city, with large, impersonal housing estates. The industry was almost exclusively focused on mining and metallurgy and there were big industrial areas with slag heaps. Furthermore, following the industrial decline, many obsolete and abandoned industrial sites were left in the city.

Faced with this situation, over recent years Kladno has undertaken important actions in order to ensure a modern lifestyle: its proximity to Prague and Prague's international airport, establishing small companies, developing the service industry and developing the Enterprise Zone in the city with important international companies are some features that along with the series of activities carried out by the municipality have made Kladno's evolution towards a more liveable city possible.

Kladno has made many efforts to guarantee this aim, such as restoring the city centre or investing in and improving local infrastructures (ensuring water and air quality and waste management), the school system and education, culture, sport and leisure, nature, the social sphere, heritage and partnerships. It should be mentioned that the city has won the "Liveable Communities" award several times over the past 6 years.

One of the city council's most important tasks was to create local specifications for restructuring and transforming the city's industry and trade. These were essential steps necessary for changing the municipal authorities' approach, including Kladno City Council and Board of Representatives, as well as relevant structural changes in each department of the Kladno Municipal Office, including changes in staffing to increase its employees' expertise and quality.



# CITY PARTNER PROFILE

Likewise, one of the aims of the city of Kladno is to reuse the large, left over area of industrial, disused and polluted land found near town centre. The city must define an urban redevelopment strategy to redesign and re-launch its future long-term economic role using these areas. The strategy should improve coordination of urban planning processes and integrate the wide and varied objectives relating to local economic, social, environmental and cultural policies.

When implementing this long-term strategy, the city must improve territorial governance, ensuring involvement by other public authorities (national, regional and other municipal authorities interested) and, in addition, the involvement of private parties. Nevertheless, the city needs to promote citizen participation when preparing, implementing and reviewing urban planning processes to create an integrated and shared strategy to shape the future of the city. The city should go from the pragmatic approach used to deal with the industrial crisis to a new approach for managing urban transformation that is more focused on social cohesion, sustainability and better quality of life.

Kladno came up with a Strategy for Sustainable Development (SSD) aimed at not only improving the physical aspects of the city, but also its functions. Nowadays, Kladno is seeking to review this SSD. Kladno will take the opportunity to analyse this document within the context of its participation in the NeT-TOPIC thematic network. Therefore, their Local Action Plan will revise this strategic document to determine the city's strategic goals. The Local Action Plan will analyse how many and which goals are achieved, i.e. the stage which they are currently in and what is needed to fulfil them.

Kladno hopes the exchanges and learning carried out within the context of the network will help them analyse their local strategy. The city expects the reflection carried out within the network to focus on issues such as urban fragmentation of the city due to communication and road infrastructures, equipping obsolete and abandoned industrial areas, transformation from mono-functional to multifunctional cities, city identity and metropolitan governance. These should help them to update and revise their Strategy for Sustainable Development.



# CITY PARTNER PROFILE

## H Aidari

The municipality of Haidari has 48,494 residents –215 inhabitants/m<sup>2</sup> –making it the biggest suburb in western Athens. The 22,655 acres it covers are divided into 4,457 acres of developed land and 18,198 acres of non-developed land (belonging to the National Defence Fund, the Botanic Garden and the Agricultural Ministry).

The city of Haidari is a historical town on the western side of Athens. Today it is the most urban region on this side of Athens, with an urbanisation and new resident rate equivalent to certain districts of the main city itself. In terms of administration, it is governed by the Athens Prefecture and is surrounded by the municipalities of Aigaleo, Peristeri, Petroupoli, Saint Barbara, Nikaia, Korydallos, Keratsini, Perama and Aspropyrgos.

A suburban green ring formed by Mount Pikillo, Mount Aigaleo and the region of Dafni surrounds the urbanised land of the municipality, producing oxygen and offering protection from the atmospheric pollution caused by the two main roads that cross and divide the city in two (Athens-Corinthus Road and the Holy Road), as well as for the industrial zone in Thriassio.



Even though residence plays a fundamental role in the municipality's current General Urban Planning, the city grew without following a clear urban strategy. Therefore, residence in the city was developed in combination with industry, manufacturing, trade and administration. Furthermore, city development was sometimes carried out in difficult areas. The mixed use of land and the lack of free space resulted in problems and failings when urbanising the city, as well as problems of environmental pollution. Thus, the municipality's urbanised land cannot be characterized as uniform, functional or appropriate. Today, the number of parks and recreation areas are limited, and the local road network is insufficient for large volumes of traffic, with the main road (Athens-Corinthus) splitting the city in two.

The municipality is aiming to promote its resources to attract external visitors, such as its positive environmental surroundings, its position as the western gateway to Athens, the ease in accessing Athens and Piraeus from the city or the presence of facilities whose importance surpasses just local level, including two psychiatric hospitals, the Attic Hospital, two military bases and the Park of Historical Memory (currently being planned).

# CITY PARTNER PROFILE

Haidari is also seeking to promote its rich history. Many historical periods come together in the city: it has historical memories from almost every decisive period in the country's history. Thus, Haidari offers cultural and archaeological monuments, including Byzantine and modern Greek remains of historical and religious importance such as the Holy Temple of Venus and Apollo, the Cave of Pan, the tower of Palataki, the German concentration camp called Block 15, the Temple of the prophet Ilia and the Abbey of Dafni.

Within this context, the city aims to develop an integrated solution involving the development of new structures and the creation of new spaces and new urban dynamics, aiming to achieve a new city. The city would like to relate urban planning to socio-economic and territorial trends in the region, and consequently, the city growth model's process of change. This means the transformation from a residential city to a city of total living.

The general approach of the Local Action Plan Haidari intends to carry out within the context of the URBACT Programme is the development of a new city model, "Haidari for all". This document will focus on a varied range of urban issues such as equal opportunities, demonstrating Cultural Heritage, joining

the two parts of the city divided by the main road –and in particular implementing an integrated plan regarding the construction of two pedestrian bridges –developing the "idea" that Haidari is the main gateway to Athens from Eastern Greece and Europe, accessibility for people with special needs, extending the Metropolitan Park and increasing the quality, quantity and effectiveness of human capital and knowledge.

The new "Haidari for all" model aims to create a new city with a high quality of life within the context of a plan based on the basic features of people and structures.

Within this framework, the city would like to create and build upon the existing social, economical and political structures rather than break down and rebuild.

Haidari hopes to exchange experiences and good practices between all partners and with other European cities through the NeT-TOPIC thematic network to develop coherent, responsible and sustainable local strategies. The exchange of ideas and examples of good practice with other partners will support Haidari in finding solutions for its problems.

International collaboration is very important for Haidari. For this reason it is twinned with Villeneuve d'Ascq, France, and is arranging a second twinning with Sacele, Romania, also a NeT-TOPIC partner.



# OTHER NEWS

## URBACT CITY-LAB ON METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE, *LILLE*

On 12th February, Lille held a CityLab organised by URBACT on Governance in metropolitan areas across national, regional and local boundaries.

The CityLab was intended to be a working space bringing together experiences and learning from several URBACT projects dealing with the issue of metropolitan governance from different perspectives and other European related projects and actors. The event was organised within a few months of completing the URBACT II Working Groups from the First Call for projects to facilitate cross-presentation of findings and first conclusions drawn from the work already carried out.

The CityLab was structured into four parallel workshops: Land use, housing and urban planning across boundaries; Economic development and labour markets across boundaries; Light footprint urban environments across boundaries; and Identity and citizen participation across boundaries. The conclusions of the workshops were later reported and discussed in a plenary session.

For those interested, reports and power points presentations on all the sessions and workshops are available at the URBACT website.

For more information:  
<http://urbact.eu/en/header-main/news-and-events/view-one/urbact-events/?entryId=4828>

## NeT-TOPIC PARTNERS HaidARI AND SACELE START A TWINING PROCESS



Sacele (Romania) and Haidari (Greece), two partner cities in the NeT-TOPIC thematic network, are currently in the process of twinning their cities.

After learning about each other's features and specificities within the context of network collaboration, they discovered a series of common points between them. Some of the most important are:

the fact of being a peripheral city located next to a central city in a metropolitan area (Brasov and Athens) and the fact that both are crossed by a main road (DN1 A and Athens-Corinthus road), two relevant features as far as NeT-TOPIC thematic content is concerned.

During the First Workshop held in Haidari in February 2010, the mayors of Sacele and Haidari had the chance to meet and discuss the twinning of the cities. The cities have agreed to collaborate in areas of common interest, using modern forms of collaboration specific to the current stage of development in their countries.

Sacele and Haidari aim to develop economic cooperation and, for this purpose, intend to favour activities with an economic and commercial character, as well as activities related to citizenship and private entrepreneurship. Development of an industrial and commercial collaboration at local level will be especially supported, including investments and direct cooperation between private entrepreneurs.

Both cities will also give special attention to collaboration between small and medium private entrepreneurs. They will participate in exhibitions and fairs within their countries, where they will be able to agree on cooperation actions and exchanges with foreign partners on a common basis.

Partners also aim to increase cultural and economical exchanges and for this purpose will facilitate collaboration between local associations and folk ensembles, organisations and institutes. Partners also intend to promote contact between people from the fields of art and culture, and to encourage collaboration between schools through student and teacher exchanges.

Both cities wish to apply to the Europe for Citizen Programme, Measure 1.1 - "Town Twinning and Networks of Twinned Towns", to get the relationship off to a good start.

# OTHER NEWS

## METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS IN GREATER MANCHESTER

One key issue affecting the transformation of cities is governance. Many cities share economic, environmental and social relationships –and sometimes tensions –with each other. But often there is no shared governance at city-region level. There have been possibilities for voluntary collaboration, such as agglomérations in France and similar partnerships in England. Local governance in England is changing to make collaboration more formal. This article describes the position in Salford.

Salford is one of 10 single-tier local authorities that form part of the Greater Manchester sub-region, a conurbation of some 2.5 million people. Each of these local authorities is responsible for most aspects of governing its area. There has, however, been a culture of collaboration between authorities and they have worked together through a voluntary organisation, the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA), which acts as the political voice of the ten authorities and works in partnership with a wide range of organisations (both public, private and voluntary) within the city-region and beyond.

In December 2009, an official agreement was reached between the government and AGMA that Greater Manchester would become a pilot for a new form of city-region governance.

*Greater Manchester would become a pilot for a new form of city-region governance*

Whilst an effective form of governance at city-region level has been developed through AGMA, the agreement will provide Greater Manchester with more substantial powers and responsibilities in relation to public service reforms, skills, transport, data sharing, creating a low carbon economy, and reinforcing Greater Manchester as a place for science and dynamic international businesses.

These new metropolitan governance arrangements will enable Greater Manchester to realise its full economic potential and ensure that economic development, transport, housing and planning functions can be properly integrated and coordinated.

The decision enables a number of key regional priorities to be addressed, including:

# OTHER NEWS

- Increasing the proportion of highly skilled people
- Expanding and diversifying the economic base
- Improving life expectancies in the most deprived areas
- Improving transport into and within the city-region
- Securing rapid transition to a low carbon economy
- Increasing the international connectivity of Manchester's businesses

In particular, the new governance arrangements are expected to support regeneration plans throughout the city-region, including in Salford, by ensuring that resources are directed to areas where they will have the greatest impact and are most needed, by enabling the provision of skills and employability to be tailored to the specific needs of residents, and by initiating a series of neighbourhood pilots that aim to have a positive impact on a range of outcomes –including criminal justice, the physical condition of the most deprived neighbourhoods, and eventually enhanced skills and employment prospects.

A Greater Manchester Combined Authority would be established to coordinate functions and oversee implementation of the new devolved powers. AGMA has requested that the new authority should be created as of 1st April 2011.

# WHAT IT IS Net-Topic & Urbact II?

## WHAT IS NeT-TOPIC?

NeT-TOPIC is a Thematic Network within URBACT II, a European exchange and learning programme that enables cities to work together to build solutions to major urban challenges.

NeT-TOPIC is made up of European peripheral cities in transformation, with shared problems including industrial decline, territorial fragmentation and social polarisation. Located close to major cities, they are transforming into more attractive urban areas: focusing on developing their own urban identities, offering a better quality of life, improving citizen integration and social cohesion to fulfil a new role within their metropolitan areas.

One of the biggest challenges faced by these cities is using and promoting new tools and approaches relating to territorial governance and urban planning processes at local, regional and national level, in order to improve urban transformation processes. The network provides these cities with a platform to reflect on changes in the city model which can increase the strategic value of its territory.

NeT-TOPIC's network aims to foster the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices among its partners. The project seeks to enhance the role of peripheral cities in territorial governance and urban planning processes to achieve their desired new city model.

## THE URBACT II PROGRAMME

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 changes. URBACT helps cities 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. URBACT is jointly financed by ERDF and the Member States.

## WHAT IS THE AIM OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

This newsletter intends to provide information on the network and its evolution: on implemented and upcoming activities as well as conclusions reached. It will also include other sections such as interviews with relevant stakeholders, city profiles from network partners, and information on issues relevant to the project themes.

## LEAD EXPERT'S NOTE

NeT-TOPIC deals with the transformation of cities belonging to metropolitan areas, adapting them to new demands for uses and activities in the process of post-industrialisation and the new service industry. This is a key process for the current new economy stemming from competitiveness, but also from the internal demands of its urban systems. In the new economic context, cities should be capable of being at the centre of new transformation scenarios. These scenarios are opportunities to establish or expand private, public and mixed investment in cities, in new fields of activity. Urban socio-economic promotion, but also positioning the cities on the map of the new economy, is one of the bases of these key policies on urban transformation. The processes developed from these relationship models between the local and the global can be extended further in the urban scale of peripheral cities in metropolitan contexts, and much more so if we approach the most common spaces, areas and places of transformation. All the partners belonging to our network are engaged in transforming their cities, trying to change from mono-functional to multifunctional cities with new urban identities. Indeed, members of NeT-TOPIC want to share and exchange new findings arising from their own practices of urban transformation.

Fernando Barreiro , *Barcelona*  
*Lead expert of NeT-TOPIC*

# CONTACT & LINKS



**NeT-TOPIC**

## URBACT PROGRAMME

<http://urbact.eu/>

## TRACE NETWORK (EUROPEAN CITIES IN TRANSFORMATION)

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

## BRASIL MUNICIPIOS

<http://www.projetoBrasilmunicipios.gov.br/>

## EUKN

[http://www.eukn.org/eu\\_kn/](http://www.eukn.org/eu_kn/)

## IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

<http://www.idea.gov.uk>

## EUROCITIES

<http://www.eurocities.eu>

## ESPON

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

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION - Regional Policy

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm)

## COMMITTEE OF REGIONS

<http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/HomeTemplate.aspx>

## PARTNER CITIES

### L'HOSPITALET CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.l-h.cat/>

### NANTERRE CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.nanterre.fr/>

### SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.salford.gov.uk/>

### Haidari CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.haidari.gr/>

### BARAKALDO CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.barakaldo.org>

### SESTO SAN GIOVANNI CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.sestosg.net/>

### SACELE CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.municipiulsacele.ro/>

### KLADNO CITY COUNCIL

<http://www.mestokladno.cz/>



Ajuntament de L'Hospitalet



MAIRIE DE NANTERRE

Salford City Council



Sacele  
CITY COUNCIL



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