

## REDIS Annual Conference - 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2009 in Newcastle

<b>13:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Opening of the annual conference</b></p> <p>General remarks project goals/stages/work plan etc.</p> <p>discussion</p>
<b>13:15 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Presentation of Partner-Cities</b></p> <p>Current Situation of ULSG and project activity in each Partner City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vienna</b></li> <li>• <b>Aarhus</b></li> <li>• <b>Bialystok</b></li> <li>• <b>Halle</b></li> <li>• <b>Manresa</b></li> <li>• <b>Piraeus</b></li> <li>• <b>Magdeburg</b></li> </ul> <p>15 min. + 5 min. Q &amp; A per partner</p>
<b>15:35 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<b>16:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Preparation of the next reporting phase / Presage and its problems</b></p> <p>Dr. Puchta / M. Schach / Q &amp; A</p>
<b>16:30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Dissemination Activities</b></p> <p>S. Janszky / Q &amp; A</p>
<b>17:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Planning of upcoming events</b></p> <p><b>Site visit Tampere:</b> Willem van Winden / Q&amp;A</p> <p><b>Implementation Lab Aarhus:</b> Aarhus Team / Q&amp;A</p>
<b>18:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>End of annual conference</b></p>

The **annual conference** is a meeting of the REDIS “steering committee”. Overall there will be 2 annual conferences during the REDIS project lifetime. One took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May subsequent to the Implementation Lab in Newcastle from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of May.

In general one representative of each partner city has to take part at these conferences. The bottom line of those meetings is to evaluate the progress of the project, check milestones and results and decide about changes.

This annual conference was structured as follows:

First all partners were asked to give a short introduction about the state of affairs concerning the development of the project on partner level. Each partner introduced a power point presentation and gave a short review about things that happened.

Those who would like to have a look at these presentations can find them on the URBACT website as well.

After this, the Lead Partner gave an introduction about the upcoming reporting period and explained next steps. Against the background of changes inside the financial system (from centralized to decentralized) the Lead Partner explained the whole procedure of how to elect the First Level Controller (if not centralized), when to give report on activities and how to feed the expenditures into the Presage system.

Moreover the project group discussed the problems that arose during the 1<sup>st</sup> reporting period and tried to find a more effective way to deal with those. One main problem was the technical default of the system itself, so each partner was confused and felt unconfident by feeding the expenditures into Presage. Another surprising fact was the unexpected question catalogue the First Level Controller had to answer to finalize the certificate. Most of them, especially those who did it for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, felt uncomfortable by doing that because it was unexpected.

Concerning the current reporting period each partner is well prepared.

Next the Lead Partner referred to the topic of communication and dissemination activities and its significance particularly with regard to the activity report. Each partner was told about the need of press releases and the production of the local newsletter as well as targeting the local media and interests.

In reference to the REDIS work plan the Lead Expert Mr. Willem van Winden introduced the next event which is the site visit in the early July, organized on his own authority.

As stated in the work program the Lead Expert takes responsibility of the organization of two site visits. A site visit was organized to a science quarter in Europe that is 'world-class' and very innovative: Tampere (Finland).

The Site visit is a 3 day program. During the site visit in Tampere, 14 delegates of 8 REDIS partners will have the chance to have a look at an established science quarter. They will be able to gather information about the development of a successful science quarter and may receive the necessary input on their individual projects.

During the site visit the delegates will be visiting the **Finn-Medi Research, the Tampere Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Tampere University, the Employment and Economic Development Centre and the Technology Centre Hermia / Technopolis**. Here the key stakeholders will not only inform the participating partners about their developments but also answer all arising questions to make each individual project of the partners a success.

Finally the delegates discussed about how to optimize such an Implementation Lab.

**"Implementation Labs"** The Implementation Labs are 2½-day workshops in each city in which local stakeholders, project partners and experts design a concrete vision of development of the Science Area. The intention of the sessions is that participants and hosts share experiences and obtain new insights. The host city will be provided with useful and practical suggestions for dealing with its science quarter. The learning exercise will produce insights for all participants. The workshops take place as follows:

Preparation. Lead Partner, host city (including the LSG) and Lead Expert will prepare the session. Host city is leading but acts within the framework of the application form; lead expert has an advisory role.

The first day will be dedicated to analyze the local situation of the host city and to learn from it. The first part will be dedicated to site visits, general presentations and to learn about the progress of the local action plan. At this day 1-2 keynotes from experts will be involved giving an input to specific themes and to learn from 'best practice' examples in Europe that are not in the partnership.

The Second day the participants analyze (in subgroups) a selected set of thematic aspects of the science quarter: Branding/marketing, triple helix co-operation, integration in urban fabric, dealing with the 'long run', creating interaction in science quarters, dealing with unwilling stakeholders, management models, and wider regional impacts. The subgroups will create 'strategic policy recommendations' for the host city. After that, one of the themes identified above is elaborated more in-depth. Here experts will be involved to give a better insight and to learn from 'best practice' examples in Europe.

Third day - Production and dissemination of outputs: A Task Force will prepare a presentation of visions, suggestions and concrete steps. This will be presented in a press conference to local policymakers and the regional press.

After the meeting an update of the baseline study case of the host city and a thematic chapter about the specific theme that was elaborated will be prepared. This is a building block for the 'handbook for developing science quarters' that will be a final output of the network. Results of each lab will be disseminated to the thematic pole and public as thematic reports.

The outputs are disseminated to all the LSGs and on the URBACT website.

One critical point was the plenty of information on the first day to analyze the local situation. This causes less time for creating ideas.

In case of there are too many stakeholders/players/interests it is hard for the "outsider" to get in to the structure during 1 day. That's why the partners decided on:

- Preparing a good handout that shows the interlocking of the different parties and gives an overview about who is who and who is responsible for what
- Create brief paper about how government works
- Produce a handout about general things, facts & figures, schemes etc.

That means the preparation of useful and necessary information to get inside the particular project process is a need.

Overall each partner was wondering about the outcomes of such an Implementation Lab. No one expected such innovative, clear and sometimes simple ideas that lead to such results.

Results of the Implementation Labs in Magdeburg and Newcastle can be found on the REDIS website.

The next annual conference will take place in Halle in May 2010 subsequent to the Implementation Lab in Halle.

[www.urbact.eu/redis](http://www.urbact.eu/redis)