



# Meeting report

## Conference in Brussels

### 16-17 November 2010

URBACT II



Connecting cities  
Building successes



**ON 16TH AND 17TH NOVEMBER 2010, THE UNIC CITIES WERE INVITED IN BRUSSELS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.**

**SIX MONTHS AFTER THE OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF LOCAL ACTION PLANS, THE UNIC PARTNERS INFORMED EUROPEAN COMMISSION ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THEIR LAPS' IMPLEMENTATION.**

## Agenda

Tuesday 16th November 2010		Place
<b>Afternoon: Official plenary meeting with European Commission</b>		
13:30-14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming, registration, buffet lunch</li> <li>• Welcome address (Greetings by Wladislaw PISKORZ, Head of Unit C.2 Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion, and Monique BOULESTIN, First Deputy Mayor of the City of Limoges)</li> </ul>	European Commission CSM 1
14:45-15:15	Presentation on Regions for Economic Change by John WALSH, deputy HoU D.2 Thematic coordination, innovation and Alexander FERSTL, desk officer of RFEC in Unit C.2 Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion	
15:15-16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plenary presentation on UNIC project and summary of the LAPs, Eurico NEVES</li> <li>• Parallel presentation of Local Action Plans of partner cities to the desk officers of the geographical units concerned</li> <li>• Wrap up, feedback from geographical units</li> </ul>	
16:45-17:30	Urban dimension of future Cohesion Policy: presentation by Zsolt SZOKOLAI, Unit C.2.	
20:00	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Café Vaudeville</i>
<b>Wednesday 17th November 2010</b>		
<b>Morning: Internal meeting between UNIC partners</b>		
9:00 - 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative and communication issues (Booklet about UNIC's outputs, feedback on the online toolbox...)</li> <li>• Transversal projects :               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The European Route of Ceramics</li> <li>- Feedback on the Jingdezhen Fair</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Considerations about the sustainability of UNIC</li> <li>• Final Meeting in Delft</li> </ul>	European Commission CSM 1
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Le Carpe Diem</i>

### 3 Local Action Plans' follow-up: working session with European Commission

The first working session had the purpose of informing DG Regio and its concerned regional desks on the progress made on the LAPs in the different cities.

- After the introductory speeches of Wladislaw PISKORZ from DG Regio and Monique BOULESTIN from the City of Limoges, Zsolt SZOKOLAI made a presentation on the role and expectations of the European Commission regarding the Local Action Plans.



- Eurico NEVES, Lead Expert, made a presentation on the objectives of UNIC and the progress of the LAPs based on the replies to the survey made to the city partners previous to the meeting, highlighting the following points:
  - **Implementation of actions** has started in all 9 cities; in 5 cities the majority of actions has started, and in 1 the majority of actions is completed;
  - **Securing External Funding** is the main issue; External Funding has been secured only by 2 cities and only partially while the majority relies so far only on internal funding;
  - **Cooperation with Managing Authorities** has been, for most cities, inexistent or merely informative and signposting; Only in 1 city the MA is assessed as cooperative in search for additional funds;
  - **Local Support Groups** have been actively involved in all cities at least in the validation process, but in the majority also in the implementation of the LAPs.

A first sample of actions already implemented has been provided:

**Limoges:** the exhibition “De terre et de feu” was realized in Summer 2010. More than 30.000 visitors visited it, among which around 50% came from outside the region of Limoges.

**Castellón:** the panel exhibition “Castellón, Capital of the Innovation in Ceramics” was displayed at the Committee of the Regions and several other places and institutions in Castellón.

**Faenza:** the event “Argillà” was held in Faenza on September 4th and 5th 2010, and a book on the Torricelli park was published

**Stoke-on-Trent:** the Ceramic Development Council started its activities. It has seen the 3 major ceramic public bodies working closer together and ensuring synergy with their projects.

**Delft** developed its links with Jingdezhen (China) and participated in Jingdezhen Fair 2010.

**Cluj-Napoca** organised bilateral meetings of ceramics within the programme of “Pécs: European Capital of Culture 2010”

- For the rest of the session the representatives from the cities met the officer from the respective Regional Desk in order to discuss operational issues regarding the implementation of the LAPs and how to better involve Managing Authorities.



## Internal Meeting

### Communication issues

- Web-site: the new shared workspace and database for the project has been presented by Adeline PORCHEZ.

The Lead Partner encouraged all the Partners to use the space and to upload shared information.

- The end of the UNIC project will be a key moment to communicate on the outputs and activities.

The promotion document highlighting the LAPs of the different cities has been presented to the partners by Eurico NEVES.

A first draft document was validated by the partners, the aim being to circulate it during the URBACT annual meeting in Liège at the end of November 2010.

The final printed version will be produced by Limoges.

- The Lead Partner also informed the partners on the progress on the preparation of an application to INTERREG for the European Route of Ceramics, a process that is being coordinated by the Porzellanikon Museum of Selb.

The call for proposal for INTERREG IVC will be opened at the end of the year, with submission on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.



### Transversal projects

- Sylvette DUTERNE, from Limoges, and Paulus VAN UYTHOVEN from Delft, provided feedback from the participation at the Jingdezhen fair.

The booth of the City of Limoges highlighted the UNIC network and the World Ceramics Road launched in Limoges in June 2010.



*Opening ceremony of the 2010 Jingdezhen International Ceramic Fair*

### Sustainability issues

The principle of the sustainability of the UNIC project after the URBACT programme is agreed by all the partners, but concrete modalities need to be defined.

Sylvette DUTERNE presented a possible model for the continuation of UNIC, with the creation of an association with reasonable contribution from its members, to be hosted by the City of Limoges.

Eurico NEVES presented another model, for an association to be based in Brussels, subject to a participation fee and aiming at achieving funding from the European Commission and international programmes for its activities.

A final decision on the preferred sustainability model should be taken within early 2011, in order to allow the formal creation of the future association during the next and final meeting of the project scheduled for beginning of June 2011.

To this end, a comparison between the two models will be sent in January 2011.

## 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 300 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants

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



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