

## ★ Projects' conclusions

### 2007 : a year full of Final Conferences

From September 2006 to July 2007, many URBACT projects held their Final Conference. In each edition of our newsletter, an article concerning this closure event was enclosed. At the same time, an article was made available in the section "[Project's results](#)" of our website. From MED-INT to Surch, here is a flashback on one year of conferences.

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## ★ Special reports

### A one-year trip around the urban Europe

Since September 2006, our journalists have traveled around Europe in search of innovative projects regarding urban development. Their goal has been to inform you on the successful – and unsuccessful – initiatives implemented in our European cities. Get on board for a tour around URBACT's European cities.

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## ★ Portraits and interviews

### Meet the professionals of the urban development

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You can click on words underlined in blue!

## Edito

### On the road to Berlin!

July brought new signs of the incoherent climate changes taking place in Europe and around the world: extreme heat in the South and the East, historical flooding in the United Kingdom... In the long term, this will undoubtedly affect city management and many sectors seem to be concerned: mobility management, energy saving, water resource management... Several European cities are very active in these domains, but many are still way behind. URBACT II must support the diffusion of innovative know-hows.

URBAN Conference, URBACT on November 4, 5 and 6th in Berlin. A threefold objective has been set for this conference in Berlin: assess the results of the 70 URBAN programmes that coming to an end, draw conclusions of URBACT in its closing stages and finally launch URBACT II – an instrument for exchange between cities which supports the implementation of urban aspects of Operational Programmes.

The conference will not only talk about the details of the Call to Projects concerning the creation of thematic networks and work groups, but also enable discussions between those in charge of a project. We will soon open a section "*Berlin Conference*" on the website. You can already reserve those dates in your agenda and download the [draft programme](#).

*Jean-Loup DRUBIGNY*

The URBACT Secretariat wishes you happy holidays!



## 2007 : a year full of Final Conferences

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**MED-INT.** After summer break, Urbact networks are going back to work. First in line, MED-INT has presented this month its results at the final conference held in Syracuse. The lead partner hosted the event which gathered some 80 personalities mostly from the partner cities. The main theme of the MED-INT network has been the integrated approach. ([read our article](#)).

**UDIEX-ALEP.** The work of the UDIEX-ALEP network drew to a close in Brussels on September 21st. On the following day, just a few kilometres away in Roubaix, the URBACT CULTURE network also handed in its final report. The former had worked on the problems of diversity, inclusion and integration, whilst the latter had studied the role culture can play in urban regeneration processes. ([read our article](#)).

**PARTNERS 4 ACTION.** The Partners 4 Action network met in Riga on 25th September for its final conference, during which it presented its concluding report. The 13 partner cities, having spent three years working together on how public-private partnerships can be used in urban regeneration projects, have produced a practical guide aimed at local actors. ([read our article](#)).

**CITIZ@MOVE.** The Citiz@move network's final conference, held in Seville on October 28th, was attended by some sixty people. The network had split into three working groups to study the various different aspects of citizen participation, and has now produced a rather original final report made up of three different itineraries, which it hopes will encourage cities to adopt a participatory approach as well as offering them some guidance. ([read our article](#)).

**CHORUS.** When the members of the CHORUS network parted company at the end of their final conference held in Naples on November 13th and 14th, it was on a largely positive note. The exchange of experience between the

fourteen cities, led by the city of Bastia, has resulted in the identification of clear guidelines on how to create links between cultural heritage preservation and urban regeneration. ([read our article](#)).

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION.** URBACT's first ever CTWG, a structure that was specially created to compare the work the various URBACT city networks had done on the theme of "*Citizen Participation*", concluded its research in Syracuse at the end of October. Over the course of three seminars, the different partners looked at citizen participation from an urban regeneration viewpoint. ([read our article](#)).

**REGENERANDO.** On November 25th and 26th, the partner cities involved in the REGENERANDO network met in Reggio di Calabria, southern Italy, for their final conference. This network studied the issues surrounding employment and local economic growth, and completed its work by signing a European Cities' Charter for Employment, via which each of the cities undertook to get more actively involved in local employment policies. ([read our article](#)).

**REGENERA.** URBACT I's remaining networks continue to hold their final conferences. The REGENERA network's 14 partner cities met in Lyon from February 22nd to 24th to present the results of three years' joint work on the issues surrounding the integrated approach to sustainable urban development. ([read our article](#)).

**URBAMAS.** The seven Polish cities involved in the URBAMAS project completed their work at the final conference held in Plock, Poland, on February 28th and March 1st. The partners had spent a whole year working on an integrated urban development model with a particular emphasis on spatial aspects. ([read our article](#)).

**URBANITAS.** Resolve urban, geographic and social segregation— such was the aim of the eleven partner cities of the URBANITAS network. It was on March 8th and 9th that the partners met in Grenoble for one last time to draw their two years of exchange to a close and to present their innovative and ambitious results. ([read our article](#)).

**CIVITAS.** The URBACT working group CIVITAS held its final conference in Barcelona on May

### AGENDA

#### AUGUST

##### 12-18 August, Stockholm (Sweden)

This year's World Water Week will focus on progress and prospects on water.

[To find out more...](#)

#### SEPTEMBER

##### 3-5 September, Coimbra (Portugal)

URBAN TRANSPORT 2007 Conference. The thirteenth international conference on urban transport and the environment in the 21st century is organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology.

[To find out more...](#)

##### 10-11 September, Brussels (Belgium)

Final Conference of the "*Cities Against Terrorism*" (CAT) project, organised by the European Forum for Urban Safety.

[To find out more...](#)

##### 12-14 September, Riga (Latvia)

Baltic Dynamics 07. This annual international conference on innovation will give participants the opportunity to discuss technological developments and economic initiatives in their favour.

[To find out more...](#)

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7th and 8th under the leadership of the Generalitat de Catalunya. The CIVITAS project was somewhat different from all the others in that its working groups assembled regional entities as opposed to cities. Its conclusions focus on the added value city-region cooperation can bring when tackling urban development issues. ([read our article](#)).

**METROGOV.** On May 25th 2007, METROGOV's eight partner cities met in Birmingham for their final conference. One last get-together, at which the members of the working group presented their conclusions regarding the 'city-region' concept. ([read our article](#)).

**SURCH.** The SURCH network united five cities from northern to southern Europe to study how urban regeneration can be tackled through cultural heritage. The partner cities held their final conference in Nicosia on June 18th and 19th. ([read our article](#)).

## A one-year trip around the urban Europe

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**A heart that beats in the rundown parts of Naples.** CUORE, in Naples, doesn't just mean "heart", but also Operational Urban Centres for Economic Rehabilitation. The four different centres are located at various strategic points around the city, but they all share one main aim: to promote the emergence of new urban centres by encouraging the development of existing businesses and assisting the creation of new ones. A project studied within the framework of URBACT's REGENERANDO network. ([read the article](#)).

**Vilnius: the exemplary redevelopment of the small northern town.** Formerly a military zone, the small northern town has been transformed into a modern and extremely welcoming neighbourhood. A neighbourhood whose urban regeneration was studied within the framework of the PHYRE network. ([read the article](#)).

**Tumska Street: participatory renovation launched by Płock city council.** Back in the XIth century, the city of Płock that sits on the banks of the Vistula River was the capital of Poland. Today it is home to 130,000 inhabitants, and the city centre's main shopping street, Tumska Street, is currently undergoing a major face-lift. An ambitious project studied within the framework of URBACT's URBAMAS network. ([read the article](#)).

**Western Athens: "bioclimatic" streets.** Of the numerous initiatives launched to make cities more environmentally friendly and sustainable, the one introduced in Western Athens offers a fine example of the mixed welcome such initiatives can receive in the field: a warm welcome from local citizens, pedestrians and cyclists... but opposition from car and shop owners. A project studied within the framework of URBACT's CIT-U-M network. ([read the article](#)).

**Estonian e-revolution.** In Estonia, the word "virtual" is truly coming into its own. For a number of years, new technology has been guaranteeing the transparency of the democratic process, with E-citizens able to consult the work of their e-Ministers. An example of the effective use of NTICs, studied by URBACT's ISN network. ([read the article](#)).

**Pescara: focusing on the Game of Life.** Pescara, a small seaside city on Italy's Adriatic coast and the Abruzzo region's main economic centre, has a population of approximately 120,000. Educational disaffection, drugtrafficking and delinquency are the daily lot for the young people living in the rundown neighbourhood of Villa del Fuoco. But a toy and games library that opened eighteen months ago has helped to rebuild social links. A project studied within the framework of URBACT's REGENERA network. ([read the article](#)).

**Hillfields: a healthy heart in a healthy neighbourhood.** In the year 2000, Hillfields, one of Coventry's more "problematic" suburbs, saw its name appear on the unenviable list of England's "priority neighbourhood". In the aim of resolving the neighbourhood's public health problems, a team of locals consequently decided to launch a prevention campaign, "The Healthy heart of Hillfields", partially financed by the ERDF. This project was studied within the framework of URBACT's URB-Health programme. ([read the article](#)).

**The poets' quarter: from renovation to neighbourhood management.** Built between 1905 and 1918 for the city's mine and metal workers, the poets' quarter, to the north of Duisburg in the Ruhr, has been reaping the benefits of an extensive rehabilitation programme ever since 1990. Let's take a closer look at life in a neighbourhood that was studied by URBACT's Hous-Es network. ([read the article](#)).

**Cork's Dockland Development: sailing straight for success.** Located in south-west Ireland on the mouth of the River Lee, Cork, Ireland's second largest city, was awarded the title of "European Regional Capital!" in 2005. A gateway to southern Ireland, Cork

decided to launch an ambitious development programme in the area surrounding its docks. Here, we take a closer at this project that was studied by URBACT's SURCH network. ([read the article](#)).

**Bristol brandishes a red card at exclusion.** In south-west England, the city of Bristol has implemented a pilot project to tackle institutional "jargon". After a three-year period, not only has the method won the support of local youngsters, but it has turned the balance of power on its head and helped advance public debate. ([read the article](#)).

**Gratosoglio, "participative" regeneration.** A District Contract was signed for Gratosoglio in 2005, and ever since the district to the south of Milan has been involved in an original urban regeneration scheme. But one that hasn't won everyone's vote. We take a closer look at a regeneration project based on «citizen participation», studied within the framework of the Hous-Es network. ([read the article](#)).

**The Ploiesti buses, a Romanian-style success-story.** Ploiesti's bus service is currently undergoing some major changes, thanks to the introduction of a satellite traffic control system and the switch to LPG. The aim of this project, which is part of a more global urban development scheme, is to encourage local inhabitants to start using public transport again and to minimise pollution in this oil-producing city. A Civitas initiative, studied within the URBACT framework of the EQUPTI training project. ([read the article](#)).

**Rotterdam: dialoguing "Hand in Hand" in the Hillesluis district.** Ever since 2004, the "Hand in Hand in Hillesluis" project has been bringing communities and generations together. Via numerous initiatives, the local inhabitants' "citizen participation" has saved the neighbourhood from violence. A project studied within the framework of URBACT's SecurCity network. ([read the article](#)).

**Warsaw: in Praga, it's goodbye vodka, hello theatre.** Praga, has always been one of Warsaw's less salubrious neighbourhoods, but things are starting to change. At the heart of this urban revitalisation project,



Konesser, a former vodka factory, has been transformed into a theatre, expressing the city's desire to make culture accessible to all. A project studied within the framework of the Hous-Es network. ([read the article](#)).

**Ashton Centre provides jobs and hope for the future in North Belfast.** Thirteen years after the Good Friday agreements, which almost ended sectarian violence, Northern Ireland no longer makes the front page. While up the hill in Stormont Castle, peace talks are coming to an end, making power sharing in the North a realistic option, the people of North Belfast are left with the legacy of *'The Troubles'*. Unemployment, poverty and poor health reign the area of New Lodge. "But", says Paul Roberts, executive officer of the Ashton Centre, "There is also strong sense of community and hope for the future." ([read the article](#)).

**Sunderland's young inspectors.** Just a few miles from Newcastle, the city of Sunderland in north-east England has decided to involve local youngsters in its Community Centre inspection scheme. And as a result of the recommendations they have made so far, the facilities have

already improved enormously. We take a closer look at this project studied within the framework of the URBACT network "Young Citizens' Project". ([read the article](#)).

**Copenhagen: mentoring Danish youngsters.** By setting up a mentoring system in one of Copenhagen's most deprived neighbourhoods, the Amuck project hoped to prove to disadvantaged youngsters that education could provide a springboard to integration. We take a closer look at a project studied within the framework of URBACT's "Young People – from exclusion to inclusion" network. ([read the article](#)).

**The Sevillian budget or constructive participation.** Seville, the Andalusian capital and Spain's fourth largest city, has a population of 700,000, and every single one of them can play a part in shaping the City Council's budget. Thanks to an initiative launched back in 2003, today local citizens can decide how 25% of the city's money is spent. A project studied within the framework of URBACT's Citiz@ move network, which was led by the city of Seville. ([read the article](#)).

**An environment-friendly dialogue on wheels with Valletta.** Valletta is experiencing a new dialogue with its commuters, both Maltese and foreigners. A few score years ago a flexible new way of moving inside the city came along with the taxi. Now the dialogue continues: since the last week of June 2007 new environment-friendly small cabs became the new commodity. A project studied within the CIT-U-M network. ([read the article](#)).

**Romania's Iasi, on a quest for eligibility.** To provide help and support for city councils in the EU's new Member States, URBACT has launched the Support for Cities project. The underlying principle is simple: cities wishing to implement initiatives that could be eligible for Structural Fund support can call on the services of a European expert who pinpoints their project's weak points, proposes solutions and helps them come up with the best possible application. And a fresh pair of expert eyes can provide valuable assistance, as demonstrated in the Romanian city of Iasi. ([read the article](#)).

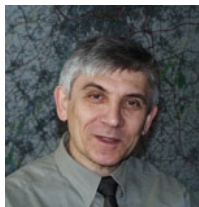




## Meet the professionals of the urban development

During this past year, we have met many actors of urban development in Europe. Each one of them, in its own way, demonstrated his attachment to the city. Retrospective on our 2006-2007 gallery.

**Nathan Starkman, a town planner with a passion for European exchange.**



Nathan Starkman, the director of Lille Métropole's Agence de développement et d'urbanisme, helped to run the URBACT Culture

network. From the Ecole Centrale where it all began to the European networks and their "rich exchanges" that he particularly appreciates today, we take a closer look at a town planner who's passionate about his work. ([read his portrait](#)).



**Dirk Ahner, regional policy as a response to globalization.**

"It's fascinating!" His first words already speak volumes. There's no doubt about it - Dirk

Ahner, the DG REGIO's newly-appointed Director General, is a Euro-enthusiast. We take a closer look at one of the new key figures for European regional policy. ([read his portrait](#)).



**Elisabeth Helander, optimism and pragmatism for the benefit of Europe's cities and regions.**

It's sometimes said that the Finnish are the most Mediterranean

of all the Nordic countries, and Elisabeth Helander would almost seem to confirm the theory. Eloquent and enthusiastic, she

concludes her phrases in a light-hearted manner, whilst nonetheless showing, in her own words, true "Finnish" pragmatism in her approach to Europe and regional policy. ([read her portrait](#)).



**Yves-Laurent Sapoval: a socially responsible town planner.**

"Creating" a city in which everyone feels at home - that's what makes 44-year-old Yves-Laurent Sapoval

tick. From his early days as an architect to his current role as France's Interministerial Delegate for Urban Affairs, his career path illustrates his desire to always get involved at the earliest possible stage. ([read his portrait](#)).



**Gaetano Mollura, the social architect of Neapolitan neighbourhoods.**

The URBACT Programme Coordinator for the city of Naples in southern Italy, Gaetano Mollura,

an architect by education and profession, developed a passion for urban regeneration projects whilst involved in URBAN. A "natural", "bottom-up" career path, which began amidst the earthquake-shattered ruins of Naples. ([read his portrait](#)).



**Dr. Engelbert Lütke Daldrup: "national urban planning and European cooperation".**

Currently the State Secretary at Germany's Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Engelbert Daldrup is keen to develop a veritable

national urban planning policy on the German side of the Rhine and to integrate European experiences. ([read his portrait](#)).



**Ingebjorg Fiskum: "Today, urban policies are an integral part of Norway's regional policy".**

Ingebjorg Fiskum represents Norway on the URBACT II planning committee. And yet her homeland, which is

situated to the west of the Scandinavian Peninsula, is not a member of the European Union. What makes URBACT II that little bit different from other projects is that fact that it involves not only cities from the EU, but also Switzerland and Norway. Ingebjorg Fiskum paints a picture of Norway's urban policy and shares her thoughts on the URBACT programme. ([read her interview](#)).

## Whats' new at URBACT?

To help you find your way around the URBACT website more easily, here is our monthly selection of some of the most recently published articles.

→ **Most URBACT networks have now finished their work and held their final conference.** For each one of them, the section "[Projects' results](#)" publishes an article summarizing the exchanges that took place within the network, as well as an interview with its lead partner. This section is organised in chronological order of the networks' conclusion.

In addition, the final publications of each network are also available on the website (report, practical guide, case studies...). If the final documents have not been completed, documents will not be available to download. A CD-Rom compiling all final publications is currently being produced and will be available before the end of 2007. It will give access to the networks' final publications, but also to interviews and other articles on urban policy. [For more information.](#)

→ **Thematic access to city initiatives.** The thematic files of the URBACT website have been updated at the beginning of August and now reflect the latest exchange activities of the networks. Six main themes of urban policies are covered: Economic activity and employment, Populations of foreign origin, Young people, Urban regeneration, Urban Security and Citizen participation.

The homepage of each theme publishes the results of the networks who worked on the subject. The files are organised in sub-questions and publish case studies as well as the most interesting reports. These case studies – actual initiatives implemented by cities as regards integrated urban development – were presented by the cities themselves during the exchanges. Other European references are mentioned through links, which have been analyzed and chosen by experts working alongside URBACT in its capitalizing efforts. [Access the thematic pages.](#)

→ **Launching of the Knowledge Transfer Kit.** The URBACT Programme has created a knowledge transfer "*kit*" available to national authorities, managing authorities, and associations or networks of cities who wish to inform their cities about the know-how acquired from URBACT exchanges and encourage the use of integrated urban development solutions.

The knowledge transfer "*kit*" consists in organising seminars under the initiative of Member States, Managing Authorities of Operational Programmes, or associations/networks of cities in order to address city decision makers and practitioners. These seminars are conducted in the local language of the host city (with key documents in local language). This system was created to facilitate the participation of individuals and make these events accessible to a wider audience. URBACT experts and representatives of URBACT partner cities will attend and have direct exchanges with local actors. The Knowledge Transfer Kit is now available online. [For more information.](#)

### AGENDA OF THE NETWORKS

#### SEPTEMBER

**Financial Control Group - Paris**  
07 September, Paris (France): Meeting

**FTN URBAMECO - Lyon**  
September, Grand Lyon (France): Steering Group Meeting

#### OCTOBER

**Monitoring Committee - Paris**  
4 October, Paris (France): Meeting

**Brussels**  
18 October, Brussels (Belgium): Closing meeting of the Support for Cities initiative