



ENTER.HUB

European Network exploiting Territorial Effects of Railway Hubs and their Urban Benefits

Protocol of Intents

Girona, July 10 & 11, 2014



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Support and Collaboration for the Development of Shared Approaches strengthening and exploiting Mobility Hubs in European Middle-sized Cities

The ENTER.HUB partners: *Creil Agglomeration, IMPEFE–Ciudad Real, Gdynia, Girona, Łódź, Lugano, Region of Örebro, Porto, Preston, Reggio Emilia, Rostock, Ulm.*

Considering that:

- The ENTER.HUB partners are involved in an URBACT II project, knowing that URBACT II is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development, part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, under the framework of the European Cohesion Policy. URBACT 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, and enables cities to share good practices.

- ENTER.HUB is an URBACT II project promoting the role of railway hubs/multimodal interfaces of regional relevance in medium-sized cities as engines for integrated urban development and economic, social and cultural regeneration. Being placed, or aiming to be placed along TEN-T core network corridors, ENTER.HUB network partners redefine their territorial systems around these hubs to bring them closer to other European cities, to focus their citizens towards all kind of activities and to strengthen connectivity at a local, regional and EU level. This program will help cities to become more competitive, to attract population and business.



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The ENTER.HUB partners agree in committing the local bodies they represent by:

- Supporting and promoting a global vision of transport and territorial development, considering mobility, transport networks and in particular the TEN-T as a European backbone in terms of connections and interaction but also in terms of territorial development;
- Promoting sustainable, common and easily available transport systems all over Europe, to make cities and regions more accessible, more attractive and more competitive;
- Sharing practices and using an exchange and learn approach in order to enrich their common and strategic vision of future Europe at different territorial scales, also in view of the new financial programming period 2014-2020, concerning urban and infrastructures development.

In particular, The ENTER.HUB partners acknowledge:

- The key role of URBACT II and ENTER.HUB for increasing the awareness of such themes in the context of European middle sized cities and regions;
- The opportunity offered by URBACT II and ENTER.HUB to contribute to a reciprocal development of cities and regions involved;
- The specific challenge of the project, in its investigation on how a territory can exploit the benefits brought by a transport hub of regional relevance, for a well-balanced and sustainable urban and territorial development, taking into consideration the economic, social and cultural issues at local, regional and European level;



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- The importance to foster the impact of the project activities at a local level;
- The need of getting further EU financial support to networks like ours to concretely implement local projects linked to the development of railway hubs and urban revitalisation (i.e. the Local Action Plans developed through ENTER.HUB). This financial support should be in form of direct funding for investments or for local studies.

The ENTER.HUB partners agree in asking URBACT, the European Commission and the DG Transport to renew their attention and focus on these topics, from the large scale of TEN-T corridors project, to the smaller scale of urban sustainable development, in the occasion of coming calls and common activities and to support their cities and regions by giving preference to URBACT Local Action Plans while defining local projects to be implemented through European financing.

Signed in Girona, Spain,
on the 11th of July, 2014.



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