

## Policy Recommendations July 2011



# Policy Recommendations

## *Introduction to REPAIR*

### *Realising the Potential of Abandoned military sites as an Integral Part of sustainable urban community Regeneration.*

REPAIR is an exchange of experience project funded by the EU URBACT programme. It is focused on the sustainable redevelopment of former military sites, exploring different approaches for the effective re-use of these sites so as to maximise their contribution to broader sustainable development objectives.

The project brings together 10 partners from both old and new EU Member States. Between them the partners manage a wide variety of former military sites, ranging from disused bases in Eastern Europe (some heavily contaminated) to protected cultural heritage buildings in historic city centres.

The challenge is to transform these sites into thriving sources of economic activity, employment and social cohesion, working in an integrated and sustainable manner so as to address priority issues such as energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy sources and sustainable transport. The REPAIR project activities have been organised around four policy themes or 'pillars':

- Pillar I Energy & waste management
- Pillar II Heritage conservation
- Pillar III Transport & accessibility
- Pillar IV Local jobs for local people.

The REPAIR partners demonstrate a broad range of re-uses for their military sites and buildings, ranging from nature protection and green infrastructure to housing, retailing and large scale enterprise and employment creation schemes. They also demonstrate different approaches for achieving these outcomes, including use of a variable mix of local, regional, national and EU policy instruments and funding sources.

## **REPAIR outputs: making recommendations**

As a condition of funding the project partners are committed to producing three main outputs, consisting of 2 pilot regeneration actions, reports on 20 good practices from within the partnership and at least 8 policy recommendations directed towards the EU level. Recommendations for local and national governments and agencies may also be included in the final project reports.

The final recommendations, agreed by REPAIR partners during the Final Conference held in Avrig, Romania in mid June 2011, are recorded in this document and reflect:

- The partners' appreciation of the relevance of EU policy frameworks, regulations and funding programmes for their local regeneration activities; and
- They are informed by evidence gathered and discussed during the project workshops.
- All 11 policy recommendations may not be supported in full by ALL project partners, due to the level of acceptance of certain

**In the course of their work REPAIR partners identified both supportive EU measures and some policy gaps and barriers to effective local action. They are now in a position to suggest some adjustments to the 'EU toolkit'.**

## Policy Recommendations

In the following document we set out recommendations for adjustments to EU-level policy measures based on the experience and evidence gathered and discussed by the REPAIR partners during the project. Ten recommendations were planned for but an additional one was proposed during preparation for the Final Conference and agreed during discussions there. Recommendations 1 to 10 were tested in informal meetings with city representatives and policy makers in Brussels during March 2011.

In making these recommendations it is the collective aim of partners' to achieve much broader recognition of the scope to re-use abandoned military sites – and heritage assets more generally – to achieve sustainable urban development. Some modest changes at EU level could help to provide cities with a more consistent and supportive context for local efforts, in turn enabling them to play their part in delivery of the ambitious goals set out in EU2020.

### Recommendation 1 - On EU regulation

The REPAIR partners recommend that proper attention be given, within the EU institutions, to the impact of EU regulations on the historic environment, especially to ensure that the implications of EU Directives (such as those on Habitats, air quality, water, waste, energy and noise) for the management of heritage buildings and landscapes are well understood. (Pillars I & II)

The REPAIR partners call on the European Commission:

- to prepare common guidelines for compliance with environmental & energy Directives for use by local authorities with large areas of heritage environment to manage;
- to reinforce requirements within the existing Directives on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) relating to impacts on cultural and architectural heritage and on landscape;
- in the anticipated revision of the EIA Directive in the context of policy for climate change, to recognise the contribution that heritage buildings can make to climate protection, especially through the application of traditional building techniques and materials.

### Recommendation 2 – on EU funding programmes

The REPAIR partners appreciate the substantial scope in existing EU funding programmes to secure funds for the conservation and regeneration of former military sites.

However, the partners consider that some programmes focusing on innovative local solutions currently give insufficient attention to the special features of such sites, for example, further technical work on energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in historic buildings, especially in urban centres, might be supported by EU programmes such as Intelligent Energy Europe and FP7. (Pillar I & II)

The REPAIR partners:

- Recommend that representatives of the heritage sector are included in stakeholder consultations relating to the design of regional and urban funding initiatives at EU level (Pillar II);
- Recommend explicit reference, in Structural Funds programmes from 2014, to measures which support energy efficiency and take-up of renewable energies at heritage sites and in listed buildings; (Pillars I, II and IV)
- Call for the creation of more specific funding opportunities for heritage-related actions in programmes like Intelligent Energy Europe, CIVITAS and LIFE+. (Pillars I and III)



### Recommendation 3 – Joint Programming Initiatives for research

The REPAIR partners welcome the establishment of a Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) for Cultural Heritage and Global Change: A new Challenge for Europe and call on the Competitiveness Council to ensure that the special issues surrounding regeneration of military heritage sites are recognised in the design of research programmes. (Pillar II)

The partners note the proposal for a JPI on **Urban Europe** – Global Challenges, Local Solutions and recommend that this be adopted and launched by the Council without delay, ensuring scope for further research on the urban built heritage and climate change in the future programmes. (all Pillars)

### Recommendation 4 – EU2020 Flagship for Resource Efficiency / policy for environment

The REPAIR partners call on the European Commission to develop a EU strategy for landscape that covers both built and natural heritage sites in the context of environment policy for green infrastructure and the Territorial Agenda. (Pillar II)

### Recommendation 5 – energy measures

The REPAIR partners welcome the Covenant of Mayors (COM) initiative and associated guidance published by the European Commission. They recommend the development of further guidance material on energy efficiency and renewables for COM signatory cities having extensive heritage sites, including those formerly in military use. (Pillar I)

### Recommendation 6 – policy for transport and accessibility

The REPAIR partners welcome the European Commission's Urban Mobility Action Plan. However, we recommend that, in follow-up activities, greater attention should be given to the special mobility/access issues associated with military heritage sites located within or close to urban areas, especially to encourage access to such sites by multi-modal methods such as walking, cycling and water transport. (Pillars II and III)

### Recommendation 7 - policy for culture

The REPAIR partners note that EU funding is already allocated specifically for 'protection and preservation of cultural heritage'.

The REPAIR partners:

- Recommend increased recognition in EU policy for culture that the built cultural heritage is part of the 'cultural infrastructure' of Europe, contributing to economic attractiveness, job opportunities and quality of life; (all Pillars, especially Pillar II) and
- Call on the European Commission and the Council of Europe to establish a Joint **Programme** on the integration of historic environment (including listed buildings) and green infrastructure. (All Pillars)

### Recommendation 8 EU2020 Flagship – An agenda for new skills & jobs

The REPAIR partners welcome the flagship initiative an agenda for new skills & jobs. They call upon the European institutions to recognise the contribution that can be made to implementation of this agenda through integrated approaches to the regeneration of abandoned military sites.



## Recommendation 9 - EU2020 Flagship – Innovation Union

In the REPAIR project the partners have observed the successful application of the 'triple helix' model for the promotion of a cluster of enterprises located in refurbished heritage buildings involving the collaborative efforts of a city council, academic institutions and the private sector.

The partners welcome the availability of EU funding to enable exchange of experience on promotion of the 'triple helix' approach and the development of clusters (for example through INTERREG IVC and the FP7 Capacities programme Regions of Knowledge). They recommend that such opportunities are continued and expanded in the proposed Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation Funding.

## Recommendation 10 - integrated policy for sustainable urban development

In relation to the promotion of integrated approaches to sustainable urban development, the REPAIR partners welcome the current initiative to develop a Common Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities and anticipate the inclusion of appropriate measures relating to heritage regeneration in the final benchmarking tool.

To consolidate broader work on urban sustainability at European level the REPAIR partners:

- Recommend that national ministers responsible for urban policy and spatial planning develop a Council Recommendation on Sustainable Urban Development. (Pillar II)
- Call on the European institutions to work toward development of a European Regulation for a Sustainability Management and Audit Scheme (modelled on EMAS) based on the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities. Such an instrument would provide a means for local authorities to obtain 'sustainability certification'. (Pillar II)

## Recommendation 11 – EU2020 Territorial Pacts

Recognising the importance of multi-level governance for establishing and implementing successful strategies for sustainable urban development in cities, including with the use of Structural Funds resources, the REPAIR partners welcome the Committee of the Regions' proposal for Territorial Pacts framed around the EU2020 strategy. They call on national governments to provide for Territorial Pacts and to include specific reference to the re-use of military heritage sites where appropriate.

## AN URBACT II PROJECT

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 181 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants. URBACT is co-financed by the ERDF Funds and the Member States.