

## Cities4Europe – Europe for citizens

At our mayors' summit on 7 March this year, I saw real hope for Europe and European values. Our city leaders showed strong engagement on European issues and real concern for where Europe is going.



The mayors sent a clear signal at the summit: cities are ready to take their responsibility in developing a more positive future for Europe.

Local governments are working with their citizens every day, engaging them in budgetary discussions, finding ways

to support citizens' initiatives, and investigating new ways of participation. We want to strengthen this new evolving democracy through a consolidated campaign across Europe with you, our members.

Beginning this autumn, we will capitalise on the commitment from the mayors' summit with our campaign 'Cities4Europe, Europe for citizens'. We want to know about your participation initiatives, your public debates on Europe, your meetings with young people, and other activities that bring Europe to your cities and citizens – and cities and citizens closer to Europe.

The campaign will run throughout 2018. We will have a special action month in May across the membership, a stocktaking moment in November at the EUROCITIES conference in Edinburgh and a mayors' summit in Brussels in spring 2019, where we aim to take forward good practices and recommendations to the European institutions.

We will be sending more information on Cities4Europe soon, so keep an eye out to learn how to participate.

We hope that you will share your many activities with this campaign in our determination to make European democracy even stronger.

*N. Vatthauer*

Nicola Vatthauer  
EUROCITIES communications director

## Social Europe: cities ready to do more

What are the key issues for the future of social Europe? What impact can cities have? What can cities do to better reflect citizens' needs? How do we manage work and social inclusion in our cities? These questions were at the core of the EUROCITIES political debate held in Ghent on 23 June.



Two years after the launch of the EUROCITIES Declaration on Work, EUROCITIES mayors and politicians engaged in a political debate with Ruth Paserman, deputy head of cabinet to Marianna Thyssen, commissioner for employment, and Philippe Lambert, MEP and co-chair of the Greens. Politicians speaking at the event came from Barcelona, Birmingham, Eindhoven, Ghent, Florence, Leipzig, Ljubljana, Nantes, Sofia and Vienna.

During the debate the politicians emphasised the need for stronger engagement of cities when it comes to the European Social Fund (ESF), especially ahead of the next EU budget debates. They stressed the importance of strengthening the partnership between cities, member states, ESF managing authorities and the European Commission so that cities can deliver on employment and social inclusion in Europe.

City politicians also highlighted the important role of cities in tackling long term unemployment, youth employment and in-work poverty; delivering inclusive labour markets by using social clauses in public procurement; promoting integration measures for migrants and refugees; fighting urban poverty through integrated approaches; developing skills needed in the transition to the new economy; promoting affordable housing and investing in social infrastructure.

Daniël Termont, mayor of Ghent and president of EUROCITIES, explains: "With one in four people in the EU living at risk of poverty or social exclusion, it's clear that the success of policies like the European Pillar of Social Rights, will depend on cities where around 75% of the EU's population lives. Cities are key stakeholders in reducing poverty, social exclusion and unemployment by brokering effective partnerships between the public and private sectors and civil society, integrating different social services, promoting social investment and ensuring the active inclusion of the most vulnerable groups in our society. Changes in the labour market have produced new forms of inequality, such as the working poor, and have led to unemployment and job insecurity for many citizens, but solutions can be found.

The EUROCITIES [Declaration on Work](#) demonstrates that cities play a crucial role in promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development. They are the place where effective solutions can be found to these common challenges. Channelling funding to where it is most needed, in our cities, will help citizens and Europe.

It is only through the meaningful engagement of city authorities that the ambitious goals of the European Pillar of Social Rights can become a reality. Our appeal to the EU is: Cities are ready to do more. Take this opportunity. Don't miss it."

Take a look at photos from the [event](#) and at our [Storify](#). Main actions implemented as part of the EUROCITIES Declaration on Work [here](#).

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## The future of Europe and the role of cities

More or less Europe in the future? This was a central question of the European Commission white paper published in early March. Less a question of more or less, preliminary responses from cities and other stakeholders indicate that we simply need a Europe that delivers solutions for citizens. One way to achieve this is by working more closely with cities.



The EU heads of state and governments will continue the debate on the future of Europe at their summit in December 2017. In the meantime, the Commission has published a series of reflection papers that focus on the social dimension of Europe, harnessing the benefits of globalisation and financing

the EU. They provide the Commission's perspective regarding the challenges and options ahead for Europe.

The Commission recognises the efforts that cities have made in light of increasing globalisation. Cities have cooperated with other each other and via city networks to tackle common problems such as

climate change and the integration of refugees. The Commission also highlights urban innovation strategies and smart city developments as drivers of city competitiveness in response to globalisation.

But as the labour market changes and society becomes increasingly digital, the Commission has more questions in the context of social Europe. How can we create more and better jobs, equip citizens with adequate skills and sustain decent standards of living? The Commission also acknowledges the EU's shortcomings in tackling major challenges like youth unemployment.

The Commission foresees likely spending increases for migration and integration, border control, security, defence and the fight against terrorism in the future. The increases will most likely come at the expense of cuts to the common agricultural policy and cohesion policy.

The scenarios for the future of the EU will impact cities and their ability to address challenges locally. We will continue to follow the debate and work to develop a contribution from our network to the summit of heads of state and government on the future of the EU in December 2017.

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## Projects, get involved: Vademecum on EUROCIITIES projects

Have you ever wondered why EUROCIITIES is involved in so many projects? Or how many is 'so many' exactly? What are the advantages for our members? These are questions our new members often ask about the projects we are engaged in. To answer them, we have developed three new tools:

- a project leaflet with general information on why EUROCIITIES is involved in projects, how this is linked to our policy activity, what the advantages are for members and how the network supports members involved in projects
- a project infographic that lists all our current projects and links them to our strategic framework
- an overview of all our current projects, their relationships with EUROCIITIES forums, key issues, main activities and specific contact details

These tools will help our new members identify the most interesting projects for them and will answer their questions about this important aspect of our work. 📄 <http://bit.ly/2tkHNlB> • ✉ [anja.decunto@eurocities.eu](mailto:anja.decunto@eurocities.eu)



## EUROCITIES publishes paper on future of cohesion policy

Linked to the debate on the future of Europe and the next EU budget, we published our opinion on the future of cohesion policy post-2020. The EUROCIITIES policy paper calls for a reinforced and simplified cohesion policy for Europe and its citizens.

In our view, cohesion policy must remain a strong tool to deliver European long-term priorities of sustainable development. As globalisation, migration, climate and demographic change impact our territories in different ways, local solutions can be very diverse. Therefore, we argue for a future cohesion policy that covers all regions and focuses on common European challenges with the flexibility to adapt to local development needs.

To improve its relevance and effectiveness we ask for a cohesion policy built on real partnership with cities to make multi-level governance a reality. To deliver results more efficiently we argue for a policy with simplified rules and strengthened tools for an integrated approach, making it easier to combine the ESI funds locally. A reinforced urban dimension should empower and support cities and local communities to effectively address challenges facing our citizens and to make Europe stronger and more inclusive for current and future generations.

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## Highlights from 7th Cohesion Forum

Marking the launch of the debate on the future of EU cohesion policy, the 7th Cohesion Forum hosted by the European Commission took place on 26-27 June in Brussels.

Strongly linked to the debate on the future of Europe, the two day debate revolved around how to adapt cohesion policy to more effectively respond to today's challenges of increasing regional divergence, technological transition, climate change, the refugee crisis and global insecurity. Participants also questioned how it could ultimately help close the gap between the EU and its citizens.

The two day event highlighted the policy's primary benefits, which include making the EU visible in all its regions and helping balance the impact of the economic crisis, although many speakers challenged the policy's effectiveness in achieving real convergence. Unfortunately, there was little mention of the urban agenda for the EU over the two days.

Fabrizio Barca delivered the keynote address (link below). The author of the 2009 report that led to the last reform of cohesion policy argued for creating a single cohesion policy fund managed by a unified DG within the Commission.

The forum brought together leading politicians of the Commission, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, OECD and several member states, and attracted an audience of more than 700 policymakers, practitioners and academics.

In a [reflection paper](#) published after the event, the Commission anticipates a reduced share of cohesion policy in the next EU budget with a focus on fewer objectives and a shift towards financial instruments.

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## EUROCITIES 2017 Ljubljana: a focus on circular cities

Registration is now open for our annual conference which will take place on 15-17 November on the theme of 'circular cities'. Politicians, decision makers and professionals from approximately 100 major European cities will gather in Ljubljana for the EUROCITIES conference. The [programme](#) highlights will include:

- opening remarks from Violeta Bulc, commissioner for transport
- a keynote by Janez Potočnik, co-chair of UNEP International Resource Panel and former European commissioner for the environment
- exciting new sessions including 'have coffee with...' and 'good morning Ljubljana' to help you make the most of the networking opportunities
- the political day on Thursday 16 November with four high-level parallel [roundtable](#) debates, which will give you the opportunity to discuss key areas of your work in the context of the circular economy: circular society, circular partnerships, circular business, and circular growth
- [study visits](#) to learn about different aspects of the circular economy and sustainable development through the eyes of various stakeholders

Speednetworking will again be a central session at this year's conference on Friday 17 November. Do you have an exciting urban story to tell or looking for partners? If so, why not sign up to host a speednetworking session? If you are interested in hosting a session, please send the completed entry form to [snezana.marcenko@ljubljana.si](mailto:snezana.marcenko@ljubljana.si) by 20 September. You can download the form from the conference website.

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**EUROCITIES 2017  
LJUBLJANA**



## EUROCITIES 2017 awards shortlist announced

We are delighted to announce this year's shortlisted cities for the EUROCITIES awards. The awards showcase outstanding projects by our members in promoting and delivering the circular economy in the three categories: cooperation, innovation and participation.

We received a total of 18 entries from Almere (2), Antwerp, Besiktas/Istanbul, Braga, Brighton & Hove, Brussels Capital Region (2), Edinburgh, Gothenburg, Lille Metropole Europeenne, Munich, Murcia, Strasbourg, Sunderland, Tampere, Terrassa and Venice.

The entries were assessed by five independent jury members, and the three winners will be announced at a ceremony in Ljubljana on 16 November. You can find descriptions of the shortlisted entries at the link below.

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### COOPERATION

#### Brussels Capital Region

Brussels regional programme for a circular economy (BRPCE)

#### Munich

Halle 2 – the Munich second hand store as nucleus of the local circular economy

#### Tampere

From linear to circular bioeconomy

### INNOVATION

#### Almere

From aquatic plant to paper and bench

#### Brussels Capital Region

Be circular – be Brussels – call for projects for enterprises

#### Lille Metropole Europeenne

La Lainière project house, the first cradle-to-cradle building

### PARTICIPATION

#### Antwerp

Inside out: boosting products, boosting people

#### Brighton & Hove

City reuse project

#### Gothenburg

Smart map

## Estonia EU presidency connects with digital transition partnership



On 1 July Estonia took over the presidency of the Council of the EU. For the next six months the country will oversee the continuity of the EU agenda and its legislative processes. With the motto 'Unity through balance', Estonia has introduced an ambitious plan that attempts to find common ground between current challenges and opportunities in Europe as well as the diverse traditions and views of European citizens and member states.

Following the general theme, Estonia presented four key priorities for its presidency: an open and innovative European economy; a safe and secure Europe; an inclusive and sustainable Europe; and a digital Europe and the free movement of data.

The last priority offers insight into Estonia's strong digital practices, as well as amplifies the voice of the Digital Transition Partnership under the urban agenda. Estonia is coordinating the partnership together with Oulu and Sofia. EUROCITIES is participating both from the Brussels office and as represented by Eindhoven, our KSF chair.

The partnership aims to ensure better public services and business opportunities through innovation. It also significantly overlaps with the Estonian presidency's digital targets and focuses on the importance of cross-border cooperation that would lead to technological progress and inclusion.

The five vertical themes of the urban agenda partnership are 'future health and social care services', 'eGovernment', 'urban planning',

'future learning & skills development' and '5G/other key enabling technologies'.

It also includes two horizontal themes: 'data and standardisation' and 'business models', which are closely related to Estonian emphasis on e-services including eGovernment and eHealth, as well as deployment of innovative and secure electronic communications across Europe.

The fulfilment of Estonian presidency's priorities shall be evaluated in January 2018. Meanwhile, the partnership has already started its work with a kick-off meeting and is currently drafting the first Action Plan, which it will submit by September 2017.

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## Circular economy taskforce meets in Brussels

EUROCITIES circular economy task force met on 20 June in Brussels, to exchange good practices and support the preparation of EUROCITIES conference in Ljubljana in November.

Sixteen cities attended the meeting, chaired by Amsterdam. They had the opportunity to meet organisations such as the Ellen McArthur foundation or Circle Economy to discuss methodologies to deliver circular economy in cities. Oslo, who leads the Urban Agenda partnership on circular economy, gave an update on progress made and discussed possible collaboration with the task force.

The task force will support EUROCITIES circular month activities in October by collecting examples of good practice from cities. These case studies will also be part of the Ljubljana conference.

If your city would like to promote a circular project you are running, please contact Feyrouz Lajili-Djalai from the Brussels office. The next task force meeting will take place on 19 September in Brussels.

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## FP9 – shaping the future of research and innovation

Cities are key actors of local innovation ecosystems: this is the result of the Committee of the Regions and DG Research and Innovation joint hearing, titled 'Cities as actors of open innovation', which took place in Brussels on 28 June.

The discussion focused on sustainable city ecosystems and open-system thinking, which brings together both scientific and technological knowledge, as well as social innovation and new forms of cooperation to solve practical urban challenges

We presented preliminary results from our study on 'Food in cities', where we analysed the impact of research and innovation projects under FP7 and Horizon 2020 on supporting food activities and strategies in cities.

In addition to underlining the emerging role that cities play in shaping the food system, we advocated for future research and innovation projects where local governments are included from the very beginning in the definition of the project activities and where different European sources of funding are streamlined and simplified.

Similar recommendations also emerged from the report of the high-level group on maximising the impact of European research and innovation programmes. The report 'LAB – FAB – APP: Investing in the European future we want' includes vision and recommendations for the future FP9 and was presented last 3 July to a high level conference 'Research & Innovation – Shaping our Future'.

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## Urban Innovative Action – calls for proposals announced

Building on the feedback received from applicants, the European Commission announced the topics for the next two calls for proposals. The list of topics selected for the 4th call for proposals in 2018 is indicative and not confirmed. A full description of the topics (and related sub-topics) along with guidance and terms of reference will be made available to applicants after the summer on the [UIA website](http://uia.eu).

In autumn, the permanent secretariat will organise a series of events and webinars to support urban authorities in their project development and application process.

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## WG cohesion policy and WG urban agenda meetings

Working groups cohesion policy and urban agenda came together on 28 June in Brussels.

WG cohesion policy discussed the outcomes and implication of the 7th Cohesion Forum. The participants were disappointed by the little focus on cities both in terms of representation and in the messages of the conference. They agreed to collect evidence from cities on the tangible benefits and challenges of implementing cohesion policy locally.

The meeting of WG urban agenda stoked an animated discussion on the governance of the urban agenda. After EUROCITIES gave a short update, WG members, most of whom are involved in the partnerships, shared their specific challenges on developing an action plan. In anticipation of the European Commission's progress report to the European Council by the end of the year, the WG decided to prepare a brief, unofficial assessment of the urban agenda partnerships. The assessment would contribute to a broader, qualitative review of the past 18 months, which the WG aims to debate with the Commission at the Cities Forum on 27-28 November in Rotterdam.

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### 2017 topics

- Air quality
- Climate adaptation
- Housing
- Jobs and skills in the local economy

### 2018 topics (indicative)

- Digital transition
- Sustainable use of lands and nature-based solutions
- Urban poverty
- Circular economy or urban mobility

## Registrations open for EMA conference in Warsaw

Following Barcelona and Turin, Warsaw is hosting the European Metropolitan Authorities conference this year on 20 October. This major political event brings together mayors of metropolitan areas and representatives of European and national authorities in pursuit of a better recognition of metropolitan areas as key players in achieving EU policy objectives, being both drivers of development and proponents of solidarity.

For registrations and agenda, visit: <http://bit.ly/2ttYXws>



## Barcelona and Terrassa: going global through culture

Specialists from EURO CITIES members gathered in Barcelona and Terrassa in June for a study visit to learn from the host cities and each other. The exchange focused on how to maximise the impact of local cultural events, as well as creative facilities on cities' international attractiveness and international economic relations.

The visit coincided with Sonar, a music festival in Barcelona which explores the intersections between music, creativity and technology and hosts the Sonar+D conference, a major event in the global tech and creative start-up calendar. Large-scale cultural events can bring a range of positive impacts for cities; Sonar for example contributes €124.8 million to Barcelona's GDP and generates some 1,200 jobs.

Participants also headed to the Catalan Audiovisual Park in Terrassa, a municipal film studio complex which has become a global destination for high profile audiovisual productions. The city plays the role of facilitator, making it as easy as possible for private enterprises and creatives to work in Terrassa. The city's free film office is responsible for facilitation efforts, helping with everything from location scouting to logistics. The support, alongside Terrassa's world-class facilities, makes it an attractive destination for the audiovisual sector.

More detailed findings from the study visit, as well as presentations and documents from the event, are available at the link below.

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## Art in the public space: we want to hear from you!

In March we launched a new working group on public art, chaired by the city of Turin. The group serves as a platform for all culture forum members to discuss, exchange experiences and design new scenarios on art in the public space.

We have developed an easy and short survey. Your responses will help us inform the efforts of the new working group. Filling in this survey is also an opportunity to showcase what your city does. The responses will be used to create content for articles, reports, case studies and more – thus boosting your city's profile.

The survey is [here](#). Please respond by 31 August. Results will be presented during the next working group meeting in Ghent on 27 October.

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## Save the date: see you in Ghent for culture

The next EURO CITIES Culture Forum will take place in Ghent on 25-27 October 2017 and will focus on 'the role of culture in shaping third places in cities'. Third places for culture are meeting places and open spaces for cooperation and connections where citizens meet and interact. Such places include cultural centres, libraries or other open spaces. We will review existing examples and explore what makes them successful.

On 25 October in the afternoon we will wrap up three years of exchanging successful practices of smart investments in culture at the final event of Culture for Cities and Regions. Join us to share and connect with cities involved in the project and with experts associated to the initiative through discussions and capacity-building workshops.

Five culture forum working groups will meet alongside the forum. Invitations will be sent in early September.

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## Last Culture for Cities and Regions coaching visit takes place in Belfast

Between 21 and 23 June as part of the Culture for Cities and Regions initiative, a team of coaches visited Belfast to help the city strengthen its cultural sector and infrastructure. The visit respected Northern Ireland's regional cultural strategies, bearing in mind the uncertainty of public funding and shrinking resources.

The visit addressed three main questions: How to prove the economic and social value of culture? Would a cultural organisation or company such as 'Creative Belfast' be useful in that context? What would be the framework and roadmap for such a structure?

The visiting team included KEA European Affairs director Philippe Kern, University of Valencia professor Pau Rausell-Köster, head of the department of cultural affairs of the city of Dortmund Kurt Eichler and co-founding director of Creative Dundee Gillian Easson.

The overall aim of the coaching visit was to help the city of Belfast reflect on its administrative and political organisation, make the most of its local culture resources and become a driver of economic and social development in the city by formulating concrete strategic actions. Belfast wishes to make its cultural assets a key driver of its development policy and has political support for this objective. The city and Northern Ireland administration work hand-in-hand on the

development of this policy, and local stakeholders – artists, cultural operators, creative community, businesses and citizens – are ready to contribute.

The coaching visit report will be available soon on the Culture for Cities and Regions website.

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Photo by Philippe Kern



### Urban agenda partnership on innovative and responsible public procurement

The partnership on innovative and responsible procurement, set up as part of the urban agenda for the EU, held its first meeting on 26 June in Haarlem, the Dutch city that coordinates the partnership. The aim of this partnership is: first, to involve cities in the design and implementation of EU policies on public procurement, and second, to strengthen the urban dimension in these policies.

The partners are: the cities of Erlangen (DE), Gabrovo (BG), Larvik (NO), Nantes Metropole (FR), Preston (UK), Vantaa (FI); representatives of member states Italy and Czech Republic; and the European Commission (DG REGIO, GROW and RTD). EURO CITIES and CEMR are also represented in the partnership. The coordinator presented the draft orientation paper, and the members discussed the areas they would focus on during this kick-off meeting: e-procurement, socially responsible public procurement, including fair trade criteria; green, circular and bio-based procurement; procurement of innovation; and pre-commercial procurement. The partnership will produce a draft action plan with concrete actions based on challenges and opportunities for cities in these areas by the beginning of October 2017.



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### EDF autumn conference and working groups, 16-18 October 2017, Vienna



At the next forum meeting, participants will have the opportunity to debate with EU and financial institutions on challenges and solutions to boost cities' long term investment, especially in terms of access to funding for cities; and design and implementation of financial tools, under EFSI, the EU Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the MFF post-2020.

The three EDF working groups will meet in parallel during the afternoon of Monday 16 October. The working group city branding and international economic relations will discuss ways to promote the city, through social media marketing and leveraging awards that cities receive. The working group on innovation will discuss tools to strengthen the local innovation ecosystems, also focusing on the public procurement of innovation. The working group entrepreneurship and SMEs will analyse the tools for assessing the impact of local schemes supporting SMEs.

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### Save the date: conference on innovation procurement

17-18 October 2017, Tallinn

With the current Estonian EU presidency, Tallinn will host the Conference on Innovation Procurement on 17-18 October 2017.

The conference's aim is to enhance capacity building, networking and knowledge sharing in innovation procurement initiatives across Europe, introduce different policy and support frameworks and update participants on new funding opportunities through the Horizon 2020 programme. There will also be two workshops in parallel focusing on environment and energy sectors.

Registration is compulsory and free of charge through the form on the conference [website](#).

### Next WG public services and public procurement meeting

9 November 2017, Brussels

During the next meeting, our working group members will discuss socially responsible public procurement, green and circular procurement, as well as procurement of innovation together with representatives of the European Commission. The Commission will publish a new package of measures on these issues this autumn, so the working group will be a timely moment to exchange ideas.

Members will also debate on state aid. The European Commission recently decided to focus its scrutiny on big investments and revised

the General Block Exemption regulation to allow for more exemption in the field of culture for instance.

Finally, our members will discuss EURO CITIES position on free trade agreements focusing specifically on the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA).

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## Urban agenda partnership air quality meeting in London

On 12-13 June, the air quality urban agenda partnership meeting took place in London. During the first day of the meeting, the first results of the work packages were discussed with the whole partnership. EUROCIITIES leads with the city of Utrecht on the work package responsible for the collection of best practices and identification of bottlenecks experienced by cities in implementing air quality measures. During the second day, the partnership held an open event in the presence of stakeholders to gain feedback on the first

results of the partnership. François Wakenhut, acting director of DG Environment in the European Commission, highlighted the latest EU legislative developments in the area of air quality. Each of the work package leaders then explained the initial results and participants made several recommendations on how to establish a better legal framework and shape better funding tools. The partnership will meet on 5 September 2017 to finalise its action plan.

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## Save the date: EUROCIITIES Environment Forum, Essen

Our next environment forum meeting will take place in Essen on 18-20 October 2017 with the theme of integrated urban development for healthy green cities. All working groups of the forum will meet during the first day of the forum: WG AQCCCEE (Air quality, climate change and energy efficiency), GAB (Green areas and biodiversity), Water, Waste, Noise, (WG waste meeting will start on 17 October). WG metropolitan areas will also be meeting on 18 October. Participants will be introduced to the transformation that Essen has undergone from its heavy industrial past to becoming the European Green Capital for 2017. Register at the link below.

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## EUROCIITIES at the EU sustainable energy week 2017

The EU Sustainable Energy Week 2017 took place from 19-25 June and focused on 'Clean energy for all Europeans'. EUROCIITIES organised several sessions at the event and hosted stands related to some of its projects.

### Local Energy Communities

On 22 June, the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, an initiative in which EUROCIITIES is involved, organised a session on the role of the Local Energy Communities (LECs). The session focused on empowering citizens with the right tools to make a difference through LECs and finding solutions for the challenges surrounding sustainability and energy transition.

You can watch an interview with Abdeluheh Choho, deputy mayor of Amsterdam and chair of our environment forum, on the role of cities in the clean energy transition [here](#). And see how our president Daniël Termont thinks we can lead the energy transition at the local level [here](#).

### Financing energy efficiency locally

On 21 June EUROCIITIES joined the session on the 'Smart finance for smart buildings' initiative recently launched by the European Commission. Inge Van De Klundert, policy advisor on sustainability for the city of Utrecht and chair of EUROCIITIES WG air quality, climate change and energy efficiency, was on the panel of experts. The city networks involved in the session made a [joint statement](#) containing important recommendations on how to strengthen the local level to accelerate the clean energy transition. You can find more information about this session [here](#).

### Localising the energy union – policy breakfast

EUROCIITIES co-organised a policy breakfast hosted by MEPs Claude Turmes and Theresa Griffin at the European Parliament on localising energy union policy. Following the event, the five city networks that co-organised the event published a [joint declaration](#) in which they express some key recommendations in order to empower local governments in the Energy Union framework.

Have a look to the live story of the EU sustainable energy week at the link below.

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## Covenant of Mayors twinning programme: apply now

The call for the twinning programme of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is now open. The programme offers cities, regions and provinces across Europe the opportunity to take part in twinning exchanges that provide them with capacity and knowledge to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The programme is open to all Covenant of Mayors signatories and territorial coordinators, as well as to cities, provinces and regions that are not part of the Covenant of Mayors signatories, under the condition that they join the initiative before their twinning visit.

The call enables local authorities to participate in two types of exchanges: mentoring and peer-to-peer exchanges.

For this call a total of six twinning exchanges for municipalities and one exchange for territorial coordinators will be financed.

Cities interested in participating in the programme should apply before 15 September 2017, 17h00 CET by submitting the online application form available at [here](#).

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## Urban Water Agenda 2030: reply to our online consultation

ICLEI and EUROCIITIES, on behalf of the European Commission, are conducting an online consultation on the development of the Urban Water Agenda 2030. The consultation targets European cities of all sizes as well as stakeholders of the water sector, such as water utilities and providers, water industry and the research and academic community. It runs until the end of July. Your replies will help us design an initiative that is relevant to cities' needs and that fosters integrated and sustainable water management in urban areas. Don't miss this opportunity, and feel free to forward [the consultation](#) to other municipalities.

You can find more information the Urban Water Agenda 2030 [here](#).

The Urban Water Agenda 2030 will also be featured at the [Mayors and Water Conference in Porto](#) on 29 September 2017.

You are invited to attend this conference. The European Commission is also still looking for political and technical speakers for this event. If you are interested, feel free to get in touch with us.

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## European Broadband Awards 2017

The European Commission has launched the 2017 edition of European Broadband Awards. The awards recognise the most outstanding projects that provide access to high-speed broadband internet in Europe. The call is open to all projects irrespective of their size, technologies or geographical location and especially encourages public administrations, local authorities, municipalities and regions to apply as long as 80% of their initiative is completed. Those interested can apply in five categories: innovative models of financing, business and investment; cost reduction and co-investment in a future-proof infrastructure; territorial cohesion in rural and remote areas; socio-economic impact and affordability; and openness and competitions.

Projects participating in the competition will gain widespread visibility and recognition. The winners will be awarded by the Mariya Gabriel, commissioner for digital economy and society, on 20 November 2017 in Brussels at the award ceremony, one day before Broadband Day.

The application form can be found [here](#), with following instructions [here](#). The closing date for applications is 7 September 2017 at 16:00 CET.



## KSF autumn meeting 2017, Uppsala

On 16-18 October 2017, the Swedish city of Uppsala will host the Knowledge Society Forum (KSF) autumn meeting with the theme 'smart city governance models: leadership, partnership and scalability to create the cities of the future'. The event brings together European city politicians and urban experts on digital and smart cities. They will look at how to strengthen leadership in cities, establish strong and long-lasting partnerships and help local projects scale up to respond to growing challenges.

The meeting will include working group sessions and a presentation of the first results of the 'matrix exercise', which highlights main priority areas for our KSF lobbying activities. The event will also include contributions of the IP-only company working on fibre networks and IoT as well as a visits to the Uppsala science park and the start-up, co-working space BASE10. A save-the-date email with a first draft of the programme will be sent to all members by mid-July.

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## EIP-SCC invests in smart cities solutions

The EIP-SCC action cluster meetings took place on 20 June in Brussels. European officials, civic leaders, city representatives, investors, industry and entrepreneurs evaluated progress, made plans and exchanged views with their peers on how to further develop smart cities solutions and identify the gaps in the smart city market.

EUROCITIES chaired the action cluster on business models, finance and procurement. During the session, discussions focused on how to capture information on successful smart city business models in a way that would enable replication of smart cities solutions in European cities. Representatives from the smart cities lighthouse projects and in particular our Sharing Cities project, provided examples based on their work on business models, which greatly contributed to the discussions. The EIP-SCC will eventually catalogue the business models and make them accessible in a business models library on its website.

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## Guimarães signs Green Digital Charter in Brussels

The city of Guimarães became the 53rd European city to join the community of GDC signatories in Brussels on 27 June, on the sidelines of the 2020 European Green Capital Applicants workshop.



"This commitment follows the path that Guimarães is making to combat the climate changes, decreasing carbon emissions through mitigation measures," said Vice-Mayor Amadeu Portilha at the signing.

"The implementation of digital solutions in our territories and improvement of energy efficiency became one of the main focus in our governance. Cities can lead Europe for sustainability and should be inspired by the Digital Charter and other partnerships to a low carbon society."

📍 <http://bit.ly/2trQVqD> • ✉ [rebecca.portail@eurocities.eu](mailto:rebecca.portail@eurocities.eu)



## GDC member webinars on smart city initiatives

Starting in September, GDC signatory cities will have the opportunity to present their own way of being a 'smart city'. One city, one webinar, one hour, in which 3-4 experts from your city will present to the public your strategy, ideas and achievements.

Has your city signed the Green Digital Charter? Contact [rebecca.portail@eurocities.eu](mailto:rebecca.portail@eurocities.eu) and we will set up your promotional webinar together!

## EUSEW17: the impact of ICT in saving energy in cities

Digital was on the agenda of the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) again this year. The GDC/GuiDanCe project welcomed participants in the Networking Village on Thursday 22 June to promote signatory cities' achievements using digital solutions to improve energy efficiency. Our interactive board also addressed the rising issue of energy consumption of ICT devices and infrastructures, echoing the policy session on 'nearly zero emission datacentres' organised by DG CONNECT on Wednesday afternoon. Laura Baracchi from Trust-IT, partner in ICTFOOTPRINT.eu, presented the project's approach to raising awareness on the carbon footprint of the ICT sector. The release of a self-assessment tool for organisations (SAT-O) has been announced for the autumn.



📍 <http://bit.ly/2so6rDS> • ✉ [rebecca.portail@eurocities.eu](mailto:rebecca.portail@eurocities.eu)





## Mobility forum: innovation and urban spaces

16-18 October, Toulouse

The draft agenda for the upcoming EUROCITIES Mobility Forum meeting is now available on the members area of our website. Under the title 'Innovative mobility for better urban spaces' EUROCITIES members will meet to exchange their inspiring examples on how to better share urban space.

The mayor of Toulouse will open the meeting together with the city of Sofia, chair of the EUROCITIES Mobility Forum. Toulouse has a number of examples to present like its innovative lighting system, the introduction of its Bus with High Level Services (BHLS) and the reorganisation of its inner city.

Karlsruhe, coordinator of the urban agenda partnership on urban mobility, will present and discuss the draft action plan of the partnership with participants.

The programme foresees a session on policy and upcoming funding opportunities by a representative from the European Commission – DG MOVE. All working groups will meet alongside the forum to continue exchanges and progress work on EU dossiers.

Sessions on the future role of the car, clean buses and the regulatory framework for new mobility services will complete the programme.

If you are interested in attending the meeting or want to know more about it, don't hesitate to contact us.

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## Apply for CIVITAS study visit – deadline 21 July



There are still some places available for the next CIVITAS study visit that will take place in Reggio Emilia (Italy). The two-day visit will focus on school mobility management.

In 2009, Reggio Emilia developed a manifesto for safe, sustainable and independent mobility in home-to-school routes with the support of city districts, schools and a broad range of stakeholder organisations.

The deadline to express interest in attending this study visit is 21 July.

The agenda for the study visit is available [here](#).

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## Call to Mediterranean members: register for Med Urban Transport Community newsletter

Want to learn more about improving sustainable urban mobility in the Mediterranean area? Register for the Med Urban Transport Community newsletter.

The Med Urban Transport Community is led by GO SUMP, an Interreg Med horizontal project coordinated by Malaga, where EUROCITIES is responsible for the capitalisation of projects' results and advocacy at European level.

GO SUMP has recently become a permanent member of the SUMP platform coordinating group, which brings together representatives from relevant EU supported actions on sustainable urban mobility plans.

You can register for the newsletter at the link below.

🔗 <http://bit.ly/2siHA2S> • ✉ [matilde.chinellato@eurocities.eu](mailto:matilde.chinellato@eurocities.eu)

## EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK – materials available in your language

EUROCITIES, leader in the consortium managing the EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK secretariat, invites its members to celebrate 'Clean, shared and intelligent mobility' during the week of 16-22 September.

In order to help cities prepare their campaign activities, materials such as posters, flyers and guidelines have been translated into various EU languages. These materials are free to use after you register on the official website of the campaign [www.mobilityweek.eu](http://www.mobilityweek.eu) Registration is also possible in your own language.

The set of translated resources is available [here](#).

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## Innovative mobility solutions on display in the heart of Europe

Brussels will organise an exhibition called 'Europe is changing' during EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK on 16-22 September. Big screens showcase the most innovative mobility projects in different locations of the EU capital, demonstrating that Europeans are changing the way they move.

Is your city testing autonomous vehicles? Does your city have a fleet of electric or clean buses? How many kilometres of pedestrian or cycling paths are in your city? Show Europe how your city is changing with a powerful image. Please send your photos before 31 July.

✉ [juan.caballero@eurocities.eu](mailto:juan.caballero@eurocities.eu)



## Receiving and educating minor migrants in Milan

Under the Solidarity Cities initiative, EURO CITIES responded quickly to Milan's request in May for assistance receiving unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and educating migrant children. The cities of Leeds and Stockholm travelled to Milan for a mentoring visit from 26-29 June.

The city of Milan received 6,016 UAMs between 2013 and February 2017, half of which arrived in the last 12 months. The reception facilities for minors are not sufficient, and several minors have disappeared after their assignment to housing or reception centres. The city also cited a lack of operational protocols and educational approaches to handle the increase in UAMs and their needs.

The officers of the city of Milan welcomed a delegation of the two visiting cities, the facilitator Ceri Hutton and EURO CITIES. The delegation participated in several site visits and interviews with local stakeholders, including police, social workers, NGOs, educators and schools. The visit generated two action plans.

A first action plan focuses on the reception and orientation of newly arrived UAMs. The plan creates a resource centre for the emergency reception of minors involving a network of competent authorities, including social workers, medical services and NGOs. It further calls for the expansion of the reception centres for minors to include a limited number of places for emergency accommodation. A second action plan outlines activities to increase multi-cultural engagement in educational settings. These actions target children with migrant backgrounds and include dedicated nursery and preschool activities, training on multicultural methods for educators, classes for parents and outreach activities in different languages.

The action plans received a first endorsement from city officials on the last day of the event and will be implemented during 2017. We are helping coordinate additional activities to take effective local action to manage the migrant and refugee crisis.

📄 <http://bit.ly/2f5j5b> • ✉ [thomas.jezequel@eurocities.eu](mailto:thomas.jezequel@eurocities.eu)



## EURO CITIES working group homelessness

The EURO CITIES working group on homelessness met in Ljubljana on 1-2 June to reflect upon the subject of 'Integrating services as a way towards addressing the problem of homelessness in Europe'. The meeting was opened by Tjaša Ficko, deputy mayor of Ljubljana, who emphasised the importance of cities engaging in international dialogue in homelessness prevention.

During the meeting, cities underlined the need for the 'vertical' integration of services to become common practice in order to secure a continuum of service, especially cities' engagement with NGOs doing outreach work. They also noted that 'horizontal' integration of services across different sectors, such as social care, housing, health — which is also embedded in the model of Housing First, still has a room for improvement.

The meeting concluded with a study visit to an affordable housing development. The 'Point' project demonstrates Ljubljana's response to a growing demand in housing, the need for affordable design and neighbourhoods that are spatially integrated with the rest of the city. The field visit was complemented by presentations of Živa Matjašič, adviser for housing affairs and head of housing relations services in Ljubljana, and the representative of the NGO Kings of the Street. ✉ [agata.krause@eurocities.eu](mailto:agata.krause@eurocities.eu)

## New videos from SAF meeting

A new video about our last social affairs forum (SAF) in Lisbon is [now available online](#) along with the [full report](#) from the event. Both the video and the report show the added value of cities coming together to address the common challenge of deep-seated poverty and rising inequalities.

EURO CITIES also produced a [video with highlights](#) from the recent meeting of the working group on Roma inclusion on 5-6 April in Lisbon. The video shows the benefits of cities exchanging with each other and with the European Commission on local strategies for Roma integration. For the first time, Roma people attended the working group and shared their experiences and views. ✉ [bianca.faragau@eurocities.eu](mailto:bianca.faragau@eurocities.eu)



## Save the date for autumn social affairs forum

Our next EURO CITIES Social Affairs Forum will take place on 25-26 October in Gothenburg, focusing on the role of cities in promoting a more social Europe and in delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights. Members' input during the event will help us send a strong message to the EU and member states ahead of the EU Social Summit on 17 November.

Our working groups on employment, homelessness and urban ageing will also meet in Gothenburg prior to the Social Affairs Forum on 23-24 October. You can register for the social affairs forum [here](#), and you can view the draft agenda [here](#). ✉ [bianca.faragau@eurocities.eu](mailto:bianca.faragau@eurocities.eu)

## Helping non-EU nationals enter labour market

On 19 June EURO CITIES attended the European Commission launch event of the EU Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals.

"In today's world of work we need everyone to be able to fully use their skills in our labour markets. The talents of non-EU nationals cannot be wasted," said Marianne Thyssen, commissioner for employment, social affairs, skills and labour mobility. "Our 'Skills Profile Tool' will facilitate their pathway towards work. It will also allow national administrations to have a clear understanding of their skills and qualifications. This is a win-win for all."

The EU Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals will be a first instrument for organisations that provide services to non-EU nationals. It will help ensure their skills and education are recognised and guide them to necessary training, education or employment.

City authorities working on migrants' skills profiling can start using the tool [here](#). ✉ [giorgio.zecca@eurocities.eu](mailto:giorgio.zecca@eurocities.eu)

## Cities trained on children's rights

On 7 June, the European Parliament's Intergroup on Children's Rights organised a capacity building training session on children's rights together with experts from the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), UNICEF and Eurochild. Two cities, Barcelona and Timisoara, attended the training.

The training's key lesson was that many children's rights are not guaranteed. For example, some EU member states violate the international rights of the child in their treatment of migrant children.

Much still needs to be done to protect children's rights:

- informing children of their rights
- guaranteeing children's right to be heard and to have access to justice
- training professionals on children's rights and on children-friendly interventions

📄 <http://bit.ly/2tM1qWp> • ✉ [bianca.faragau@eurocities.eu](mailto:bianca.faragau@eurocities.eu)

### Cities in action: Gijón's participative new governance model

The Gijón city council has responded to the need for greater efficiency, transparency and participatory democracy by changing how it operates. At the heart of this transformation is a digital platform that enables residents to share responsibility for governing and managing the city and helping the city to become a stronger and more vibrant place to live and work.

Gijón is one of the most populated cities on the northern coast of Spain, with its fair share of urban problems. It is also one of the most committed cities in its effort to become a smart city. Working towards its goal of using integrated technologies to provide truly intelligent services across the city, Gijón has already launched a smart citizen card, introduced e-government initiatives and established mechanisms for collecting city data. The next step on Gijón's smart city journey was accelerated by growing demand for greater accountability of political leaders and greater involvement of local people in public decisions.

The city council recognised that it needed to operate more transparently and openly and work with citizens to understand the actual status of the city and the experiences and views of its inhabitants. This was vital, it believed, in order to develop relevant and sustainable initiatives that address the social and economic realities of the city. The council resolved to do two things: provide wide and easy access to public data and empower and enable citizens to take part in the workings of government to help improve their city.

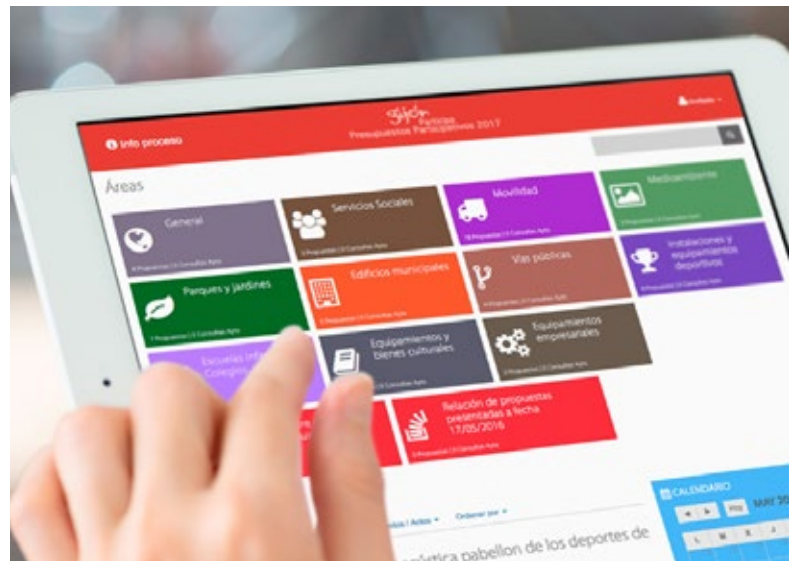
These objectives led to the development of a Citizen Participation and Open Government Strategy in 2014. With €203,000 in funding from the municipal budget and the European Regional Development Fund, the council set to work with business, NGOs and technology partners to turn its vision into reality. First it developed procedures for co-participation, co-decision making, co-creation of information and co-production of public services. It then created an integrated 'platform for participation' to facilitate citizen's involvement. The platform hosts three portals which release city and governmental data to the public for the first time in a clear and meaningful way.

The first of the portals to go live was Observa Gijón (Watch Gijón), an 'urban observatory' providing access to nearly four million sets of records related to the city's economic management, local government activity and welfare indicators. The portal has had more than one million unique visitors who use it to learn, analyse and evaluate the management of the city in real-time, including municipal budgets and investments.

The second portal, Cuida Gijón (Care for Gijón) helps citizens to maintain and conserve the city's streets and facilities, encouraging personal responsibility and saving government money. People can communicate via the Cuida website or app on issues they notice such as street lights that aren't working or damaged benches. For transparency, all reported issues are published online and updated

when they are fixed. In addition to dealing with nearly 1,000 complaints a year, the portal also receives around 275 improvement ideas. For example, Cuida's inventory of municipal land and properties allows citizens to check ownership and, if unused, to propose new uses.

The third portal, Participa Gijón (Participate in Gijón), is the primary way the city promotes and strengthens participative government. Through the app citizens can learn about council initiatives, put their



own ideas forward, comment on different topics and proposals and take part in a collaborative decision-making process. New regulations, city plans and competitions have all been debated on the portal. One of the biggest collaborative decisions made via Participa so far has been how best to spend Gijón's 2017 €6 million participative budget.

These tools have helped some citizens start to see themselves as co-responsible for the daily management of the city, especially 'digital natives' and community activists. The portals are being enriched and enlarged each day as more projects and issues are discussed openly and residents add their own information and ideas. Users' collective intelligence and low-cost electronic voting are making a valuable contribution to the tools' ongoing cost-effectiveness.

📍 <http://bit.ly/2tLOPIV> ✉ [ciara.drohan@eurocities.eu](mailto:ciara.drohan@eurocities.eu)

### Circular cities: Ljubljana first to produce paper out of Japanese knotweed



Like many other cities Ljubljana is faced with significant overgrowth of Japanese knotweed, a plant on the global list of the 100 most invasive non-native species. To prevent excessive overgrowth of the plant the city of Ljubljana teamed up with the Re-generacija collective, the University Botanic Gardens Ljubljana, the Pulp and Paper Institute and the public waste management company Snaga to create a voluntary removal campaign. The city now harvests the dry stems of the plant to produce paper. The paper is then used to produce paper bags and notebooks, and even magazines. The initiative makes the city one of the first in the world to produce paper out of Japanese knotweed at a semi-industrial level. In doing so the city is tackling the problem of the invasive species in an innovative way following the principles of the circular economy.

📍 <http://bit.ly/2tLNBOQ> ✉ [sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu](mailto:sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu)





19-21

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INTERNATIONAL  
CYCLING

CONFERENCE 2017

<http://bit.ly/2tKVU3e>

28-29

SEPTEMBER

HERAKLION, GREECE



SMART BLUE CITY

<http://bit.ly/2iSDvMe>

29

SEPTEMBER

PORTO, PORTUGAL

MAYORS & WATER  
CONFERENCE 2017<http://bit.ly/2sRKNrp>

4-6

OCTOBER

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

BELGIAN ROAD  
CONGRESS 2017<http://bit.ly/2tFN9ZS>

9-12

OCTOBER

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

EUROPEAN WEEK OF  
REGIONS AND CITIES[www.bit.ly/2osTgyY](http://www.bit.ly/2osTgyY)

17-18

OCTOBER

TALINN, ESTONIA

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