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DIRECTORATE GENERAL IB

External Relations: Southern Mediterranean, Middle East, Latin America, South and South-East Asia and North-South Cooperation

Directorate for Latin America



URB-AL / INFO



Information circular No 4

June 1997

The URB-AL programme in brief

Objective:

To develop a direct and lasting partnership between local participants in Europe and Latin America.

Activities:

- *eight thematic networks of mutual interest, which will give rise to various joint projects cofinanced by the Commission.*
- *two biennial political and technical meetings between mayors and representatives of towns in Europe and Latin America.*

Participants:

Towns, regions and other local authorities in the European Union and Latin America.

Duration: four years.

Present situation

Biennial meetings

The first biennial meeting is to be held in Lisbon on 12 and 13 June 1998. Lisbon town council has proposed discussing the theme of "Urban Renewal". The European Commission has submitted this proposal for examination and discussion at the next meeting of the High-level Technical Committee (see page 5 for details). The Lisbon meeting will bring together high-level representatives from towns and local authorities throughout Europe and Latin America. With the emphasis on one key topic, participants will have the opportunity to pool experience, identify common priorities and define ways and means for specific action.

Should you require further information on the Lisbon meeting, please contact:

Ms Cristina ROCHA
Directora del Gabinete de Relações Internacionais
Departamento de Apoio à Gestão e Actividade Institucional
Câmara Municipal de Lisboa
R. do Ouro 49 - 4º Piso
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Tel.: +351 1 32273 66 or 65
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For the sake of regional balance, the second biennial meeting will be held in a town in Latin America in the year 2000. The venue has not yet been decided.

Thematic networks

1. "Drugs and Towns", coordinated by the town of Santiago de Chile

- **Dates:** The opening seminar will be held on 10 and 11 November 1997.
- **Theme:** The role of local authorities in drug abuse prevention and the reintegration of drug addicts.
- **Progress:** A contract has been concluded between Santiago City Council and the European Commission. An information booklet, containing practical details and the application form for the opening seminar will soon be available on the Internet (see addresses of the two Internet sites on page 6). You may also request this document by fax from Santiago City Council or from the provisional Secretariat. Interested towns and local authorities are requested to get in touch with the coordinator as soon as possible.
- **Contact:** Mr Carlos Varas
Director para las Relaciones Internacionales
Alcaldia Santiago de Chile - Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales
Plaza de Armas s/n
Casilla 52-D
Santiago de Chile
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Tel: +56 2 6392691
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2. "Conservation of urban historic contexts," coordinated by the Province of Vicenza

- **Dates:** April 1998 - dates to be specified
- **Theme:** Conservation of urban historic contexts
- **Progress:** The contract between the Province of Vicenza and the European Commission is due to be signed in June 1997. Preparations are already under way for setting up the network and launching the activities. The High-level Technical Committee (HTC) has been asked to seek out experts in this field to draft the basic document. Interested towns and local authorities are requested to get in touch with the coordinator as soon as possible.
- **Contact:** Ms Manuela Dal Lago
Vice-Presidente della Provincia di Vicenza
Assessore alla Cultura, Sport, Turismo e Beni culturali
Amministrazione Provinciale di Vicenza
Contrà Porti, n° 16
I-36100 Vicenza
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3. *Calls for proposals for thematic networks 3, 4 and 5*

The following three networks:

- network No 3: “Democracy in towns”
- network No 4: “The town as a promoter of economic development”
- network No 5: “Urban social policies”

were the subject of calls for proposals which appeared in Official Journal No S60 of 26 March 1997. To make them more accessible, the texts were also published on the Internet (details on page 6) in the following six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

In view of the problems caused by the very tight deadline for replies, originally 12 May 1997, the Commission published a corrigendum to the contract notice in Official Journal S86 of 3 May 1997 postponing the closing date to 12 June 1997. This information was also put on the Internet.

On receipt, the proposals will be examined by:

- ⇒ the provisional Secretariat, which will check the eligibility of the applications, i.e. their compliance with the conditions set out in point 3 of the calls for proposals;
- ⇒ the HTC, which will also check the validity of the applications at its meeting on 10 and 11 July 1997 (see page 5 for details);
- ⇒ the ad hoc services of the European Commission.

10 Questions & Answers on the URB-AL Programme

To make it easier to understand how the URB-AL programme works, we have compiled a list of answers to the ten questions most commonly put to the provisional Secretariat. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact the provisional Secretariat (see page 6 for details).

1. *Could you send me the next information circular?*

The provisional Secretariat has a database containing details of all organisations/individuals interested in the URB-AL programme. Each contact automatically receives a copy of future editions of the information circular. The database currently contains 3 000 contacts which in turn pass the URB-AL information on to other potential partners. This means that, in total, almost 40 000 people are now familiar with the development of the programme. URB-AL/INFO is also available on the Internet in six languages (see page 6 for details).

2. *Could you send me the information required (forms, guide, etc.) to respond to the calls for proposals for thematic networks 3, 4 and 5?*

There is no specific information or application forms relating to the calls for proposals. Applicants should write to the European Commission in accordance with the procedures and deadlines laid down in the calls for proposals. Your attention is drawn to point 4 of each of these calls, concerning the information to be provided by applicants at the preselection stage. The Guide for Applicants, the publication of which is running a few weeks behind schedule, is not essential in order to respond to the calls for proposals. At the end of the initial preselection phase, successful candidates will receive full instructions on how to present their detailed proposal.

3. *I am not interested in coordinating a thematic network but I would like to become a member. Could you help me?*

The provisional Secretariat does not deal with applications for membership of thematic networks. In this case, you should contact the network coordinator:

- ⇒ for network no. 1 “Drugs and Towns”,
Carlos Varas at Santiago de Chile City Council;
- ⇒ for network no. 2, “Conservation of urban historic contexts”,
Manuela Dal Lago at the Province of Vicenza

The addresses of the coordinators for networks 3, 4 and 5 will be published in forthcoming information circulars.

4. *When will the calls for proposals for networks 6 , 7 and 8 be published?*

The calls for proposals for the last three networks, i.e. :

- network No 6 “Urban environment”,
- network No 7 “Management and control of urbanisation”
- network No 8: “Urban mobility”

will be published in the Official Journal during the first quarter of 1998.

5. *May I apply to become coordinator of a thematic network, if I represent a small or medium-sized town? May I be a member of it?*

The Commission encourages small and medium-sized towns to participate in the URB-AL programme. At the last meeting of the HTC (see URB-AL INFO No 3) “the need to take into consideration the specific problems of the regions and small towns was [...] stressed, in view of the importance attached to them by certain Member States.” However, the coordination of a thematic network presupposes a certain type of infrastructure. Provided they have sufficient resources, applications from small or medium-sized towns wishing to coordinate a thematic network are entirely admissible. Their cooperation as members would certainly be beneficial.

6. *In connection with an application to coordinate thematic networks 3, 4 and 5, may I set up a provisional network with partners from the same countries in Latin America and the European Union? For example, could I set up a network with three Argentinian and two German towns?*

The text of the calls for proposals does not preclude this, since it states that: “towns interested in coordinating X network will have to form a pre-network comprising a minimum of 2 European (EU) partners and 3 Latin American (LA) partners”. Hence such proposals are eligible. Since, however, the Commission is aiming for maximum geographical coverage, it would be preferable to involve different countries from each of the two regions.

Same question for the definitive network (if I am preselected)?

The text of the tender notice stipulates: “[Applicants] must explain how they intend to bring together the number of definitive partners which is 50-150 partners, comprising a minimum of 20 EU partners and 30 LA partners and a maximum of 60 EU partners and 90 LA partners”. The remark made in answer to the previous question applies, although in the case of more extensive networks, it is clear that a number of partners may have the same nationality.

7. ***Are there “nationality quotas” for participation in the inaugural seminars and for membership of the thematic networks?***

No, bearing in mind the answer to question no. 6. The maximum number of partners in a thematic network is 150. Within this margin, coordinators are free to accept members from the same country into their network in on the basis of their particular areas of expertise.

8. ***The Commission is to preselect 10 candidates for each network. Does this mean that there will be 10 coordinators per network?***

No. From the proposals submitted to the Commission in response to each of its calls, ten finalists will be chosen for each network. These ten candidates will then be invited to submit a detailed financial and technical proposal on the basis of which the Commission will select one coordinator per network. It will be assisted throughout the preselection and selection procedure by the High-level Technical Committee (HTC).

9. ***May an association of towns or regions (a federation, consultant, etc.) submit an application to coordinate a thematic network?***

No. In order to be eligible, proposals should comply with the criteria set out in point 3 of the call for proposals which stipulates that candidates should have the “status of town, region or other local and territorial community”.

10. ***When will the Guide for Applicants be published?***

In July 1997. It will be available immediately on the Internet. The documentation may also be obtained on request from the provisional Secretariat (see page 6 for details).

Second meeting of the High-level Technical Committee

The second meeting of the High-level Technical Committee (HTC) will be held in Brussels on 10 and 11 July 1997. By way of a reminder, here is the list of HTC members:

Mr Manuel Camacho Solis	Mr José Emilio Patricio Rodé
Ms Maria Luisa Cerrillos	Ms Cornelia Poczka
Mr Hector Dada Hirezi	Mr René Schoonbrodt
Mr Hugues de Jouvenel	Mr Jaime Torres Lara

The Commission has allocated two working days to deal with the items on the agenda of the next meeting, including, *inter alia*, the examination of applications for the coordination of networks 3, 4 and 5 and discussion of the topic proposed for the inaugural biennial meeting in Lisbon.

All applications for the coordination of networks 3, 4 and 5 which fulfil the eligibility criteria will be examined by the members of the HTC. The HTC will then present the Commission with a list of up to ten preselected candidates per network. It is then up to the Commission to endorse the lists proposed by the HTC and send a letter within three months inviting the selected candidates to submit a detailed technical and financial proposal.

The Commission will have three months in which to examine these detailed proposals and choose *one coordinator per thematic network* for whom a contract will then be drawn up.

The HTC will also be required to examine the topic of "urban renewal" proposed by the City of Lisbon for the inaugural biennial meeting which will take place during the Universal Exhibition on 12 and 13 June 1998. Study of this topic must be carefully planned to avoid duplicating the work of thematic network No 2 "Conservation of urban historic contexts", coordinated by the Province of Vicenza.

Guide for applicants

A comprehensive *Guide for Applicants*, detailing all the activities of the URB-AL programme (biennial meetings, thematic networks and joint projects) is in the pipeline. It will be available on the Internet in four languages (English, French, Portuguese and Spanish) from July 1997. The paper versions of this Guide will be sent only on written request, after publication on the Internet.



The Guide for Applicants is not essential in order to respond to the calls for proposals

Intended as a vade-mecum for potential partners in URB-AL activities, the *Guide for Applicants* sets out the rules of the game and explains clearly how the programme works. It also *contains the forms required for the submission of joint projects by the thematic networks*.

It is divided into three parts:

I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE URB-AL PROGRAMME

- A. Introduction
- B. Questions/Answers
- C. Programme support structures

II. URB-AL PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

- A. Biennial meetings
- B. Thematic networks
- C. Joint projects designed by the networks

III. FORMS

These forms are intended solely for the submission of proposals for joint projects to the European Commission.

For further information:

Information Circular No 5 will be published in September 1997. If you wish to subscribe and/or receive additional information on the URB-AL programme, please contact the provisional Secretariat at the following address:

PROGRAMME URB-AL - PROVISIONAL SECRETARIAT
21, rue des Drapiers B-1050 Brussels (Belgium)
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Fax: +32 2 5102647

All issues of **URB-AL / INFO** are also available on the Internet in six languages (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese). The addresses are:

- ⇒ <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg1b/URB-AL/urb-al.htm>.
- ⇒ <http://tips.org.uy/sai>.

You can also obtain information on URB-AL from the EC Delegations in Latin America and from the EC Offices in the European Union (for addresses please see cover page).

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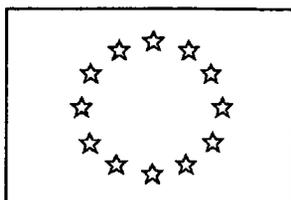
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