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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 Latin America

Unit Economic Cooperation



URB-AL / INFO



Information circular No 5

September 1997

The URB-AL Programme in brief

Objective:

To develop direct and durable relations between European and Latin American partners at local level.

Activities:

- *Eight thematic networks of mutual interest, which will give rise to various joint projects co-financed by the Commission.*
- *Two political and technical meetings, held biennially, between mayors and representatives of European and Latin American cities.*

Participants:

Cities, regions and other local and regional authorities of countries of the European Union and Latin America.

Duration:

4 years.

Thematic networks

The URB-AL Programme is based on the creation of networks comprising cities and local authorities in Europe and Latin America centred on subjects of mutual interest.

The thematic networks comprise standing frameworks for cooperation involving various activities, the main aim of which is to develop solid relations of partnership, in turn leading to the implementation of joint projects.

In order to ensure that the URB-AL Programme is set up as quickly as possible under the best possible conditions, the Commission, in cooperation with the other bodies concerned, has chosen the subjects to be covered by the first two networks and selected the coordination cities. An appropriate working method has also been worked out for the remainder of the Programme.

The subjects covered by the other six networks were decided by the High-Level Technical Committee and approved by the Commission. The coordinators of these networks were chosen on the basis of an invitation to submit proposals, published in the Official Journal, S Series.

Network No 1: "Drugs and towns", coordinated by the Municipality of Santiago, (Chile)

The first network, coordinated by the Municipality of Santiago, (Chile), focuses on the question of drugs in the urban context. It will primarily deal with the role of local authorities in drug use prevention and in the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Composition of the network

The network is currently being set up. *Towns and local authorities wishing to join this network and participate in its activities should without delay contact the following person in charge of its coordination:*

M. Carlos Varas
 Director para las Relaciones Internacionales
 Alcaldia Santiago de Chile
 Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales
 Plaza de Armas s/n
 Casilla 52-D
 Santiago/Chile
 Tel.: +56 2 6392691 - Fax: +56 2 6321962
 E-mail: stgoint@reuna.cl

Launch seminar

- Dates and venue: 10 and 11 November 1997, Santiago (Chile).
- Subject: The role of local authorities in drug use prevention and the rehabilitation of drug addicts.
- Participation: A presentation brochure, containing all practical details and a form of enrolment on the launch seminar is attached. This documentation is also available on Internet (see p. 7 for the address of the Internet site). *Cities wishing to participate should return the enrolment form to the organisers before 30 October.*

Joint projects

Joint projects will be an integral part of the thematic activities. They will principally be open to members of the networks, but outside partners may also participate. Participants in joint projects will be organised into subnetworks in which the number of participants may vary from 5 to 25.

External partners (*the number of which may not exceed a ratio of 1/5*) should have a direct link with the local authorities. Failing this, they should have the specific qualifications necessary for implementing the project activities.

External partners may include the following:

- associations,
- foundations,
- universities,
- cultural, scientific and technical centres,
- enterprises,
- other bodies (ASBL, NGO, etc.).

Given the potential for large-scale joint projects, the Commission has deemed it appropriate to increase to ECU 100 000 the maximum amount of the Community contribution, initially fixed at ECU 50 000 per joint project.

Members of the network “Drugs and towns” will have approximately 5 months to prepare and submit their joint project proposals to the European Commission. The Commission, assisted by the HLTC, will examine the proposals and select those projects deemed most suitable to receive Community cofinancing.

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| Network No 2: “Conservation of urban historic contexts”, coordinated by the Province of Vicenza |
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The second network will tackle the subject of conservation of urban historic contexts, which encompasses all matters concerning heritage in the broadest sense. The activities of this network will be coordinated by the Province of Vicenza.

Composition of the network

The network is currently being set up. ***Towns and local authorities wishing to join this network and participate in its activities should very quickly contact the official in charge of its coordination, as follows:***

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| <p>Dott. Franco Pepe Capo di Gabinetto Amministrazione Provinciale di Vicenza Contrà Porti, n° 16 I-36100 Vicenza (Italia) Tél.: +39 444 399141 Fax: +39 444 326556</p> |
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Launch seminar

- Dates and venue: May 1998 (date to be determined), Vicenza
- Subject: “Conservation of urban historic contexts”.

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| Networks Nos 3, 4 & 5 |
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Subjects

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

Selection of coordinators

With a view to selecting coordinators for these three networks, three invitations for proposals were published in Official Journal S 60 of 26.3.97. These texts were also distributed on Internet (coordinated page 7). The deadline set for submission of proposals was 12 June 1997.

292 local entities, of which 113 European partners and 179 Latin-American partners, participated in proposals addressed to the Commission. This clearly illustrates the great interest created by the URB-AL Programme both in Europe and in Latin America.

Preselection of the proposals was made in accordance with the procedures in force in the European Commission. To evaluate the technical capability of applicants, the Commission was advised by experts on the High-Level Technical Committee for the URB-AL Programme (HLTC).

At the end of this initial selection phase, preselected applicants will receive full instructions enabling them to submit a detailed financial and technical bid.

These proposals will also be examined by the Commission, with technical support from the HLTC.

At the end of the selection procedure, the names and full details of the coordination cities for Networks 3, 4 & 5 will be published in the URB-AL/INFO circular. This will enable cities wishing to join these networks to contact the officials in charge.

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| Networks Nos 6, 7 & 8 |
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Subjects

- Network No 6: "Urban environment"
- Network No 7: "Management and control of urbanisation "
- Network No 8: "Urban mobility"

Selection of coordinators

With a view to selecting coordinators for these three networks, three invitations to submit proposals will be published in the Official Journal during the first quarter of 1998.

The texts of the invitations to submit proposals for the coordination of networks 6, 7 & 8 will be modelled on those previously published for networks 3, 4 & 5 (Official Journal, S Series, 26/03/97). These texts are available on Internet. This will enable cities and other local authorities interested in coordinating networks 6, 7 & 8 to obtain documentation on the procedure required and, if necessary, to make preliminary contacts with a view to finding suitable partners. ***No proposal should be sent to the Commission before official publication of these invitations of submit proposals in the Official Journal.***

Biennial meetings

The first biennial meeting will take place in Lisbon on 12 and 13 June 1998 and cover “**Urban rehabilitation**”. This meeting will be held during the “Expo 98” Universal Exhibition due to take place in Lisbon between 21 May and 21 September 1998.

The Lisbon meeting will provide a forum for prominent public figures and representatives of cities and local authorities in Europe and Latin America to exchange experience and identify common priorities together with the means and instruments available to implement concrete measures.

Cities, regions and other local and regional authorities interested in participating in the Lisbon meeting should contact the following person responsible for the event.

Mrs Cristina Rocha

Directora do Gabinete de Relações Internacionais

Departamento de Apoio à Gestão e Actividade Institucional

Câmara Municipal de Lisboa

Rua do Ouro 49 - 4º Piso

P-1100 Lisbon (Portugal)

Tel.: +351 1 3227366 or 65

Fax: +351 1 3227009

Following the Lisbon biennial meeting, the participants will sign an “**action declaration**” on urban rehabilitation. By this declaration the participants will commit themselves jointly to follow up their discussions and ensure a durable outcome to the meeting.

Monitoring and implementation of the action plan will be undertaken by a coordinating unit comprising representatives of the cities involved.

The proceedings of the meeting will be published and distributed in an appropriate form of communication. The conclusions will also be made available on Internet.

The second biennial meeting is scheduled to be held in a Latin American city in 2000.

High-Level Technical Committee

| List of Members of the HLTC | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Manuel Camacho Solis | José Emilio Patricio Rodé |
| Maria Luisa Cerrillos | Cornelia Poczka |
| Hector Dada Hirezi | René Schoonbrodt |
| Hugues de Jouvenel | Jaime Torres Lara |

The second HLTC meeting was held in Brussels on 10 and 11 July 1997, attended by all members of the Committee except Mr Hugues de Jouvenel.

Members of the Committee proceeded to elect the Chairman and Secretary. Emilio Patricio Rodé was unanimously elected Chairman and Maria Luisa Cerrillos was elected Secretary.

Members of the Committee examined and approved the proposal by the City of Lisbon which wished to discuss the subject of "Urban rehabilitation" at the first biennial meeting.

It was agreed that members of the HLTC would be consulted over the thematic orientation of the basic documents to be used in the launch seminars for the eight URB-AL Programme networks.

At this meeting, the HLTC carried out a detailed examination of the applications sent to the Commission, following publication in the OJ, S Series of 26/3/97, of invitations to submit proposals for the coordination of thematic networks Nos 3, 4 & 5.

The Committee drew up a list of the proposals selected for the second phase. The list was forwarded to the Commission for approval. At the end of the first selection phase, the preselected applicants received full instructions enabling them to submit a detailed bid.

The Committee will examine these detailed bids at its third meeting, to be held on the occasion of the launch seminar for the Santiago (Chile) network in November 1997.

URB-AL Programme Guide

The Programme Guide, detailing all URB-AL activities (biennial meetings, thematic networks and joint projects), will be published on Internet on *October 97*, in four languages: English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. The "paper" versions of this Guide will be available before the end of 1997.

The Programme Guide will comprise three brochures:

1. **General presentation of the URB-AL Programme**
2. **Activities of the URB-AL Programme**
3. **Forms**

These forms are intended exclusively for the submission of joint project proposals to the European Commission.

External Secretariat for the URB-AL Programme

The procedure for selecting the body which will assume responsibility for the implementation and management of the definitive External Secretariat of the URB-AL Programme is in hand.

The Provisional Secretariat will continue to promote and distribute information on the URB-AL Programme until a decision on its final composition has been made, probably at the end of 1997.

For information on URB-AL

Information circular No 6 will appear in December 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:

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| <p>URB-AL Programme Provisional Secretariat rue des Drapiers, 21 B-1050 Brussels (Belgium) Tel.: +32 2 5102312 +32 2 5102515 Fax: +32 2 5102647</p> |
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All issues of URB-AL/INFO are also on Internet in six language versions: German, English, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese.

The information may be accessed at:

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

In addition, you may obtain information on URB-AL from the EC Delegations in Latin America and from the EC Information Offices in the Member States of the European Union (see addresses on cover page).

Offices of the European Commission in the Member States

Delegations of the European Commission in Latin America

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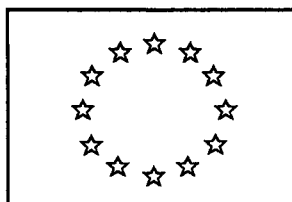
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