

European Learning Network



LNet Newsletter

Issue 10 January 2007

LNet final Conference

London December 2006

The European Learning Network (LNet) ended on a high note at the Tate Modern in London on 11th December 2006. Martin Large, Chief Executive of Greater London Enterprise (GLE)



- the leading partner of the LNet project - gave an introductory speech to the audience of practitioners and policy makers on the reasons why GLE, as a publicly owned but privately run economic development company became engaged in LNet. He highlighted that through the project's development GLE has been able to focus its experience in enterprise, entrepreneurship and innovation on regeneration in deprived urban areas in London and share this experience with other EU counterparts.

The event then took an interactive turn when Tony Travers, Director of the London School of Economics London Group began interviewing city managers from Amsterdam, Hamburg, London, Milan and Prague, as well as a representative from the European Commission, about the impact of LNet on regeneration policies and funding programmes in their cities and in the European 2007-13 agenda. Treasury Minister John Healey lent a broader perspective to the debate, highlighting the British government's agenda of supporting initiatives aiming at enterprise promotion.

The Conference was a perfect opportunity for the five the LNet partners to present their experiences and findings and to launch the online LNet manual and LNet's final report.

LNet representatives from each city went on to hold an open debate to discuss how the lessons learnt from the project could be transferred to other economically deprived regions of Europe.

This morning session set the context for the afternoon, where participants attended one of three working groups to discuss either promoting social entrepreneurship, stimulating innovation in small businesses located in deprived areas or promoting entrepreneurship among disadvantaged groups and young people.

60 delegates were asked to road-test the LNet outputs looking at case studies from a practitioner's perspective – how would they go about implementing similar initiatives in their own localities?

Welcome to the tenth European Learning Network (LNet) newsletter. The Network partners – Amsterdam, Hamburg, London, Milan and Prague – are actively developing and implementing policies to promote enterprise in deprived urban neighbourhoods. Through LNet the cities will develop common approaches to realising the economic and social potential of deprived urban areas and practical tools to support enterprise in these areas.

Working groups tested the LNet findings on scenarios from setting up a business incubator to supporting a creative industries cluster and designing a grants programme to promote innovation among black and Asian women entrepreneurs.

Two additional new projects were presented during the workshops. The first, "Create your own job" is managed by Frans Heesels and supported by the City of Amsterdam. The idea is to coach unemployed people who are over 40 years old and on the road to self-employment. This highly successful project has been highlighted as good practice in a study on the reintegration opportunities for older job seekers carried out by the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. For more information, contact frans.heesels@vacatureservice.amsterdam.nl

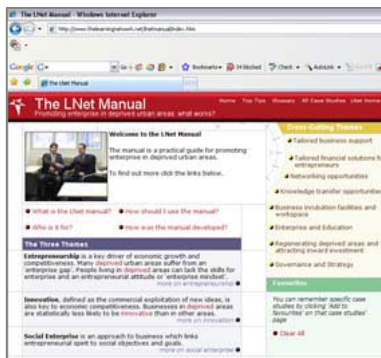
The second, "Promotion of social inclusion" is run by the Czech-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) People in Need. The NGO is working with socially excluded communities, such as the Roma, and focusing on supporting these groups into employment. For more information, [click here](#).

LNet final report

The LNet final report presents the findings of the first phase of the project. The document allows LNet partners to present their common approaches to realising the economic and social potential of deprived urban areas through the promotion of entrepreneurship, innovation and social enterprise in deprived urban areas. The five partners also assess the transferability of best practice – if an intervention has worked well in one city, for instance, would it work effectively elsewhere? The report is available online in Czech, Dutch, English, German and Italian. The findings of the final report can also be viewed online in English and can be used for free by policy makers or economic practitioners wanting to promote enterprise in deprived urban areas.

www.thelearningnetwork.net/publications

LNet online manual



The manual contains best practice examples from the five partner cities and offers an analytical grid for each LNet case study. The toolkit is designed to allow users to explore the LNet themes social enterprise, innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as cross cutting issues. The manual also offers practical top tips to overcome the barriers to enterprise, as well as a glossary of terms used in the field of regeneration.

The manual can be viewed at: www.thelearningnetwork.net/lnetmanual

LNet pilot projects in Prague and Milan



We are pleased to announce that some LNet partners have taken up the gauntlet to take the research beyond the exchange of experience and actually try out the best practice guides in the LNet manual in real situations. The INTERREG IIC secretariat has been very supportive in providing additional funding to extend the LNet project until December 2007.

GLE, the LNet lead partner, has decided to test the LNet manual in three deprived urban areas in Prague: Zizkov (Prague District 3); Smichov (Prague District 5) and Karlín (Prague District 8).

The pilot project will aim to increase the awareness amongst disadvantaged groups of entrepreneurship as being a route out of social exclusion. By promotion of self employment and business creation people from deprived urban communities can benefit. This is the first project in the Czech Republic to utilise EU best practice principals in the field of enterprise support amongst deprived communities. The project will employ tried and tested techniques to reach out to the communities through a local NGO called [People in Need](http://www.peopleinneed.org). For more information contact Durmish Guri (durmish.g@gle.co.uk)

In a separate project, two LNet partners (Milano Metropoli and Milan Province) have teamed up to run a pilot in north west Milan, focusing especially in one new-born municipality, Baranzate, located very near to the new exposition area.

The idea of the project is twofold: firstly to set up the "North-West resource centre", a new service which will support the development of projects and business ideas with a clear social value arising from the community; secondly to set up a new service promoting ethnic and migrant entrepreneurship in co-operation with ASIIM, the association for the development of migrant entrepreneurship in the province of Milan. For more information, contact either Gianluca Sala (Sala@milanomet.it) or Silvia La Ferla (s.laferla@provincia.milano.it).

To evaluate the success of these two projects the LNet partnership will be holding a conference in Prague in September 2007. Further details will be posted on www.thelearningnetwork.net

News from the Partnership

Prague municipality wants to buy ship to act as a shelter for the homeless

Prague municipality wants to buy a cargo vessel where homeless people could spend the night. The boat will cost the city 23 million CZK (820,000 €), 16 million CZK of which will be covered by the state. There should be about 250 beds aboard, in 28 rooms with either 6 or 12 beds, and a canteen to seat 175.

The services are designed for people who are interested in returning to a normal life and they will not be for free. "The homeless people will have to pay in the order of tens of crowns," (1 € = 28 CZK) city councillor Jiri Janecek said. "Teams exist in which they can work and earn money," he added.

The number of homeless people living in Prague, a city of 1.2 million inhabitants, is estimated to be 6,000. Asylum homes offer only 600 beds in total and in winter, charity organisations open their daily centres for people in need at night.

Amid the frosty weather early this year, the city hall had a tent camp erected in Prague's Letna plain, where more than 200 homeless people spend the night every day. The three-week operation of the camp cost about 700,000 CZK (25,000 €).

CTK (Czech News Agency), October 3 and December 20

Prague is becoming a multicultural metropolis



It is estimated that 60,000 foreigners live in Prague. They include both traditional national minorities and "tourists", foreigners who come to Prague to work for a certain period of time. Their integration into society brings many positive impacts, from exotic restaurants to non-traditional services, but also many problems.

Praguers are used to the steady influx of immigrants. Since the 1980s they have welcomed a great wave of immigrants: from Vietnam; after the Velvet Revolution Romanians, Bulgarians, Croats, and Serbian refugees; followed by economic immigrants from the former Soviet Union, especially Ukraine. On one hand Praguers appreciate the multicultural environment that national minorities bring with them (restaurants, music and art clubs, or traditional services - Thai massage, Asian martial arts, traditional medicine, or exotic food shops). On the other hand, Prague, like other great world cities, is struggling with the issues created by closed ghettos, language barriers, and the integration of these "new" Praguers into the socio-cultural context of the metropolis.

Also of concern is the isolation of some communities, mainly Chinese and other Asiatics, but also of the traditional national Roma minority. "The language barrier plays a large role, but so do persistent prejudices", warns ethnologist Jana Mala. Prague supports the Roma community annually with CZK 4.5 million (about 150,000 €) of its own funds, which it distributes through Roma coordinators of the individual municipal districts.

The city also supports many cultural events like the Khamoro Global Roma Festival and the Prague Heart of Nations folklore ensemble festival of various nationalities. Prague distributes about CZK 3 million (i.e. 100,000 €) every year to other projects focusing on the integration of foreigners. "These funds are definitely not being invested in vain. Thanks to them, Prague is able to naturally and gradually accept its new residents despite cultural differences, without dramatic conflicts with the majority population," explains Councillor Hana Halova. "We can speak of problems mainly with traditional minorities. For example, immigrants from Africa or Arabian countries mostly work here, they engage in business, and there really aren't any problems with them," agrees ethnologist Jana Mala. She opines that the great unrest that Paris and other cities experienced at the turn of 2005 is definitely no threat to Prague.

Source: Capital City Prague Journal, 1 February 2006

Hamburg's final LNet local seminar - innovation, immigration and entrepreneurship: perspectives for urban renewal and local economy in Hamburg

26th January 2007, 09.00 - 13.00

Exploring the combination of innovation, migration and entrepreneurship as an impetus for urban development, the seminar presented LNet findings to the Hamburg audience.

For the successful development of Hamburg's urban areas, local economic regeneration is of great importance. In Hamburg, where 30% of the inhabitants have a migrant background and the urban development strategies focus on growth and internationalisation, the economic integration of migrants plays an important role.

Opportunities for and barriers to migrant entrepreneurship were identified and discussed and successful case studies and new promising approaches were presented, focussing on the following themes: job creation, vocational training, promotion of start-ups and inward investment.

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Diary of events

Hamburg Workshop: Internationalisation and migration – Perspectives for Hamburg Metropolitan Area
Hamburg, 26th April 2007, 11.00 - 16.00

How can immigration contribute to the future of Hamburg and the Metropolregion? In the course of globalisation, Hamburg sees itself increasing in international competition around investments and highly-qualified specialists. What makes Hamburg attractive for this high potential? What do they expect



from Hamburg, what makes them come into the city and remain there? Which role plays an ethnical surrounding field for it as well-being feeling factor?

Which impulses does immigration give to the city and region? And how can these be compatible with the chances and requirements that are offered here? The basis of the workshops is a study of the HafenCity University Hamburg in the context of Interreg-Project City to City. They will examine the topic by the example of Chinese and Italian immigrants in Hamburg.

The workshop will be held in German.
For more information: LNET@tutech.de

LNet Prague international conference
September 2007

LNet pilot projects currently running in Milan and Prague will be showcased in September during an LNet event where an evaluation report of these trials will also be presented.

More info to come on the LNet website. In the meantime, for more info contact durmish.q@gle.co.uk or delphine.m@gle.co.uk