

# European Learning Network



Newsletter

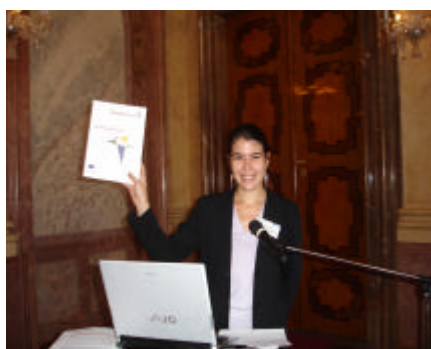
Issue 6 December 2005

## LNet branded as successful example of interregional cooperation in Europe

LNet has featured in two major INTERREG III C events this autumn, where European Union officials and regional actors examined the future of inter-regional cooperation.

Held in September in Prague, the annual INTERREG III C All Zones Meeting (AZM) gathered

all the INTERREG III C stake-holders from across the EU, to sum up the past three years of the INTERREG III C programme and to provide the INTERREG III C Monitoring Committee representatives with an overview of the Programme activities implemented so far. One flagship project from each of the four INTERREG III C Zones was selected, out the 264 operations that are currently running under the INTERREG III C Programme, to provide concrete examples of the Programme achievements. In the framework of the AZM, Greater London Enterprise (GLE) was asked to present LNet as a valuable contribution to the successful implementation of the Programme in the West Zone.



LNet was again under the spotlight in November, being presented as a success story at the West Zone INTERREG III C Forum and Lead partners' conference in Brussels, where good practice examples were showcased and discussed among project leaders. GLE presented LNet's communication strategy and highlighted the already tangible results achieved through the



promotional activities after only one year, such as the call from interested parties for a European platform on regeneration issues; the active involvement of practitioners in LNet activities; and the the LNet facilitated lobbying on urban issues.

Welcome to the sixth 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.

These two events have also provided the European Commission (EC) with an opportunity to share information and start a debate on the next funding period. On these two occasions, Ms. Elisabeth Helander, Director of the INTERREG Unit within the EC DG Regio, provided an overview of the state of the negotiations on the still uncertain framework of implementation. The current programmes are coming to an end in 2006, and discussions are now taking place at EU institutional and Member state level on the preparation of the new programmes, but these have been delayed by the difficult EU budget negotiations between Member States.

Three draft regulations on Structural Funds 2007-2013, published by the EC in July 2004, are relevant to the preparation of future INTERREG programmes: the general regulation on the management of Structural Funds; the ERDF regulation covering specific guidance on the future European territorial cooperation and the regulation on European Groupings of Cross-border Cooperation.

## LNet (cont'd)

Negotiations are still ongoing at Council level and the Community Strategic Guidelines should be adopted next March 2006. Once the Guidelines are in place, the National Strategic Reference Frameworks, identifying the links between the Community priorities, national/regional priorities and the Operational Programmes will be presented. The overall procedure should take roughly 9 months.

In the new programming period 2007-2013, interregional cooperation would be supported and mainstreamed within the Objectives 1 and 2 programmes but will be recognised as an Objective 3 programme. The Objective 3, which drawing on the positive experiences from the current period, will reinforce the networking activities and experience exchange, with funding assistance potentially covering up to 75% of an operation. The new Objective will strongly focus on the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas, addressing the EU targets of competitiveness and sustainable development.

Topics for cooperation, still under discussion in the European Council, would include:

- 1) technological innovation, R&D in regional development, SMEs and entrepreneurship;
- 2) innovation in and access to services in the regions;
- 3) Environment, risk prevention, energy efficiency and biodiversity.

To ensure a simpler, more transparent and consistent programme for project applicants, the Objective 3 would cover the whole EU territory (instead of being divided into the actual four zones), and the management structure would be lightened to avoid over-administration. Other initiatives should be mentioned outside the Structural Funds framework such as LIFE+ for environment; the Seventh Framework Programme for R&D; the PRO\_INNO instrument for Enterprise and Innovation.

LNet partners are currently considering European funding opportunities to pursue the project after its current INTERREG financial support, ending in February 2007.

## News from LNet Partners

### London Mayor launches new Science and Industry Council

On November the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mayor of London Ken Livingstone launched CATALYST, a new Science and Industry Council for London, which will be Chaired by Sir Richard Sykes, Rector of Imperial College London and former Chairman of GlaxoSmithKline. The aim of CATALYST is to shape the future of London's science base and boost the role it plays in the capital's economic development. It is part of the Mayor's vision to establish London as the world's leading centre for science, technology, design and innovation and is supported by the London Development Agency, London universities and several leading companies.



CATALYST intends to undertake a three-year activity programme in partnership with the London Development Agency, who are providing £800,000 to the Council. The programme will promote London as a world leading centre for science, design and business; investigate the need for major scientific infrastructure in London (science parks) and improve the access and collaboration between universities and business.

For further media information please contact Sarita Bhatia at the LDA press office on 0207 954 4087 or [saritabhatia@lda.gov.uk](mailto:saritabhatia@lda.gov.uk).

**new!**

**LNet Newsletter in German**

The second L-Net newsletter in German has been prepared by the Hamburg project team. It reports on the project work going on in Hamburg and refers to planned activities. The newsletter can be obtained from Julia Gottwahl at: [gottwahl@tutech.de](mailto:gottwahl@tutech.de)

### The Innovative Region of North-East Bohemia

On November 9th 2005 the Czech Liaison Office for R&D (CZELO) in Brussels, in cooperation with the Research Institute of Textile Machines Liberec and the University of Pardubice, organised a presentation entitled "The Innovative Region of North-East Bohemia: Your Partner for Collaboration". The presentation was held at the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU in Brussels.



The CZELO for R&D was opened by the Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in May 2005. The office provides services for researchers from all types of R&D organisations in the Czech Republic.

However, the principal aim of the office is to help the Czech research to successfully feed into the European research cooperation, especially through the Framework programmes for R&D. The CZELO project is supported by a grant from the Czech Ministry of Education.

[www.czeb.cz](http://www.czeb.cz)

## Roundtable on State Aids for Innovation (London)

In the framework of the EC's consultation on how to improve the rules on state aids to help foster innovation more effectively, GLE organised a roundtable discussion on 17<sup>th</sup> November, in London, to help develop a response.

Dr. Delphine Michel, Head of the GLE Brussels Office, gave the opening presentation to define the consultation's scope and context. Mary Tait, of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) State Aids Branch, provided the DTI's perspective.

David Wabum, of the Local Enterprise Policy Union, then chaired an inciting debate focusing on the main issues regarding the Commission's proposal, such as whether the identified barriers to innovation are accurate, whether state aid is the best tool to address market failure, and whether state aid support should only be authorised for technological innovation. The discussion also focused on the accuracy of the measures proposed by the Commission to promote experimentation and risk-taking and to encourage a supportive business environment for innovation.

## LNet Hamburg organises seminar on entrepreneurship for migrants

This specialist seminar will examine mechanisms of support to entrepreneurs with a migrant background and will be held in Hamburg on the 16th February 2006. The event, entitled "The role of entrepreneurship as element of economic integration", will gather individuals and institutions working in the field of providing support to migrants in deprived areas. It will be an opportunity to discuss current available systems that support these groups and to promote social inclusion through entrepreneurship. This LNet event is run in conjunction with the Interreg IIB (South) City to City, achieving synergy between Interreg projects dealing with social issues.



**New!**

LDA launches a model for best practice in public-third sector partnership working

On November 14<sup>th</sup> the London Development Agency (LDA) launched a model for best practice in public/third sector partnership working, which the LDA has developed, tested and effectively delivers on the LDA's project objectives.

It is designed to ensure effective delivery when working in partnership and will be the subject of discussion by Government, the third sector and the private sector at their 'Best Practice in public-third sector Partnership Working Seminar'. The evaluation recommended that the LDA should take a lead in promoting this highly successful model more widely within Government, the public sector, the third sector and other key stakeholders.

The Rt. Hon. Alan Michael MP, DTI Minister of State for Industry and the Regions said: "I want to promote ways of improving partnership working across the sectors to improve services. [...] I am looking forward to finding out more about the partnership model that the LDA is using, and how it can provide a framework of best practice that can be promoted throughout the regions."

## National Strategic Reference Framework for EU regional funding: London consultation meeting

The meeting on National Strategic Reference Framework for EU regional funding was held in London on 18<sup>th</sup> October, co-organised by the ALG European Service, GLE and Government Office for London.



The seminar was held in the context of the ongoing debate on the future of the EU Structural Fund programmes from 2007-2013, the negotiations on the EU budget, and the discussions on future programmes. The European Commission published draft Community Strategic Guidelines, setting out the priorities on which programmes should be based, and which will, in turn, be translated into National Strategic Reference Frameworks (NSRF) and the Operational Programme 2007 - 2013.

The event focused on how the Framework will be developed and was a starting point for providing a London input to Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's consultation on the UK NSRF.

**Please visit our website:**  
[www.thelearningnetwork.net](http://www.thelearningnetwork.net)

**For contributions and additional  
 information please contact:**  
 Amana Ferro  
 Assistant Project Manager  
[amana.f@gle.co.uk](mailto:amana.f@gle.co.uk)

The LNet  
 partners  
 wish you a  
 Merry Christmas  
 and a  
 prosperous  
 New Year 2006!



## Diary of events

### Presentation of the LNet toolkits London, January 2006

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Greater London Enterprise will organise a public event, to present the social enterprise and the innovation toolkits, produced in the framework of the LNet project, to the London practitioners and policy-makers.

### Second dissemination seminar Brussels, March 2006

The second LNet dissemination seminar is scheduled to take place in Brussels in March 2006. This one-day event will bring together project partners, as well as guest practitioners from outside the partnership, including delegates from the ten new EU Member States and accession countries.

The seminar will be an opportunity to disseminate and publicise the network to a wider audience, and to discuss the LNet method of exchanging information and best practice, while focusing on the three project themes of entrepreneurship, innovation and social enterprise. More information on the event will be available on the website and invitations will be dispatched by mid-January.

### Third LNet workshop on entrepreneurship Amsterdam, June 2006

The third and final LNet thematic workshop will focus on entrepreneurship and will be developed by the Amsterdam and Prague partners. Scheduled to take place in Amsterdam in June, the two-day event will consist of a public conference and presentations of case studies by the partner organisations, as well as a study visit to relevant local development project sites in the Amsterdam area.

### Closing conference London, November 2006

The final LNet event will take place in London at the end of the year. Project partners, guest academics and economic development practitioners from across Europe will have the opportunity to assess what has been accomplished by the project and the lessons drawn from the partner cities. The event will also be an opportunity to look at the next steps the network will take, together with new members and partners, in looking at regeneration issues in urban deprived areas.

