



The LNet 2nd Dissemination Seminar in Brussels

LNet partners met in the heart of Europe on March 7th, 2006, for the 2nd dissemination seminar, an opportunity to present the project and its working method to the Brussels audience of practitioners and policy-makers. The event managed to successfully engage a wider audience of professionals involved in regeneration issues from cities and regions outside the core partnership. Two major outputs of the LNet project were presented, namely, the two toolkits elaborated so far by the project partners, on social enterprise and innovation, respectively. These were appropriately supported by case study presentations from the partner cities, illustrating the barriers and potential solutions to social enterprise and innovation in deprived urban areas, as reflected in the toolkits.



Key-note speaker was Mr. Daniel Mouqué, Programme Manager and Policy Analyst for the Urban Community Initiative, DG Regional Policy. He introduced the audience to the urban dimension of the European Cohesion Policy,

stressing how the European Commission intends to reinforce the place of urban issues by fully integrated actions in this field into the regional programmes. Urban development is present in the Community's Strategic Guidelines for cohesion, and should be a part of the National Strategic Reference Framework and integrated into the Operational Programmes when appropriate. Mr. Mouqué spoke about the "financial engineering" of this initiative, namely, the three J-programmes: JESSICA, JEREMIE and JASPERS.

The Innovation session, which comprised the morning of the event, was chaired by Julia Gottwald (TuTech Innovation, Hamburg) and it provided the audience with a presentation of the toolkit and three case studies from London, Hamburg and Amsterdam. LNet partners understand innovation as the successful exploitation of new ideas encompassing any product, service or process, in order to support business growth, and it was from this perspective that the case studies were selected.

The afternoon session, dedicated to Social Enterprise, was opened by an address from Mr. Albrecht Mülfinger, Chief of Unit with DG Enterprise and Industry, and was chaired by Mr. Tony Venables, from the European Citizens' Action Service (ECAS). The toolkits on social enterprise was presented and supported by three case studies from Prague and Milan. Ali Beth Somers, researcher, presented the interim findings of a two-year study dealing with the relationship between social enterprise and the UK local government.

Welcome to the eighth 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.

Guest speaker Erwin Siweris, Deputy Programme Manager for the INTERREG III C, spoke about the future of inter-regional cooperation in Europe, providing a very comprehensive analysis of what has been achieved so far and what is to be expected for the upcoming programming period. For instance, the new INTERREG IV C programme will be focusing on the Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives, on regional competitiveness and employment, with a thematically organised application and selection process and financial assistance up to 75%.



The seminar ended with an open discussion, powered by LNet project manager Delphine Michel, on the possibility to extend the current partnership after the end of the INTERREG funding. Project partners and interested parties participated at the debate, trying to find a common denominator and to assess the next steps the partnership should take, in order to establish itself as a wider and representative regeneration European platform, bringing together social inclusion and entrepreneurship.

News from LNet Partners

Association for the development of immigrant entrepreneurship in Milan

The Province of Milan has turned its particular attention to ethnic entrepreneurship, through the development of the ASIM - *Associazione per lo sviluppo dell'imprenditorialità immigrata a Milano* (Association for the development of immigrant entrepreneurship in Milan).



ASIM has been set up by a public-private partnership: besides the Province of Milan, other members are University Bocconi, Milano Chamber of Commerce, Lombardy Region, Milan City Council, ONLUS Agency (Agency for Socially Responsible Non-Profit Organizations), Caritas Ambrosiana, Association of Commerce and Tourism, CLAAI (Confederation of Italian Craftsmen Associations), Banca Popolare di Milano, UNIDEA (UniCredit Foundation), Banca Regionale Europea, Concooperative, ACLI (Christian Associations of Italian workers).

The objectives of the Association are: to improve efficiency of bodies and associations already operating on the Milan territory to promote immigrant entrepreneurship and self-employment; to stimulate private and public organisations, banks and enterprises, to predispose in their respective fields of activity specific services and interventions for such activities; to encourage the development of "added services", which today seem still limited in terms both quantitative and qualitative; to support the full insertion of the immigrated entrepreneurship in the Milan entrepreneurial and associative sphere; to reduce immigrated enterprises mortality, acting on the birth phase; to reduce the gap (also cultural) of the immigrated entrepreneur aspirants in relation to the Milan economic and social community.

www.thelearningnetwork.net

REGENTIF

A Network for Knowledge Interchange on Regenerating Old Industrial Facilities

With the goal of setting up an innovative methodology for regenerating old infrastructures and brownfields, a group of European experts are working together in the REGENTIF Project for developing, validating and transferring a methodological framework to enhance innovative thinking on urban regeneration.

REGENTIF has been started with the support of the European Commission under the Fifth Framework Programme "Innovation and SME Programme" by the following European partners: Fundación LABEIN, NEOTEK Nervion, Cracow University of Technology (CUT), Rzeszów Regional Development Agency, Milano Metropoli Development Agency, Fondazione IDIS, Dura Vermeer Group (DVG).

During the collaboration, the partnership has developed an innovative approach that identifies the characterizing dimensions of a regeneration project, its essential components (key actors and key factors) and the patterns of solutions needed for its implementation, thus integrating both technical and non-technical aspects. Such solutions aim at being very useful in avoiding the negative consequences of deindustrialization, such as environment harm, reduction of economic activity and urban degradation.



REGENTIF work focuses on facilitating the transition from an industrial society and its collateral damages such as big obsolete industrial facilities, contaminated sites, brownfields etc. to the knowledge society. This means, for instance, enhancing tertiary centered Small and Medium Size Enterprises (that provide services or supply chain relations) around service-oriented activities, i.e. leisure, culture, learning etc., in order to accumulate knowledge.

Best practices and pilot project experiences, coming from the different partners' countries, will be embedded in the so called "Knowledge-Based System" (KBS). The KBS represents a new approach for the technology transfer; its main purposes are to support the decision making in regeneration projects, to activate interactions among the key actors involved in industrial site regeneration processes.



Milano Metropoli Development Agency
Press Office, Ph. +39 02.24126540
comunicazione@milanomet.it
www.regentif.org

International Conference: Achieving Competitiveness through Innovation

The event, organised by the Warsaw School of Economics, in cooperation with the Hamburg LNet team of Tutech Innovation GmbH, will take place in Warsaw on the 23rd of June, 2006. Its main objectives are:

- to discuss the influence of innovation on competitiveness
- to analyze the links between Foreign Direct Investment and innovation in the new EU Member States
- to examine experience of EU countries in boosting innovation and competitiveness
- to disseminate good practice in innovation policy making

The major outcome of this conference will be a book that draws together theoretical issues, the effects of empirical comparative analysis EU member states and implications for innovation policy. Prof. Walter Leal (TuTech) will introduce a session on 'Innovation Policy: A Way of Boosting Competitiveness' with a presentation on 'An Analysis of the Means to Implement Innovation Policy and Enhance Competitiveness'.

For more information please contact: het@tutech.de or Prof. Mazenna Weresa on mweres@sgl.waw.pl.



The Call for Proposals for the Development of the Rhodense Area has been launched by ComunImprese and Banca Intesa, in cooperation with the Provincia di Milano, Camera di Commercio di Milano, Agenzia di Sviluppo Milano Metropoli, Fondazione Fiera Milano e Assolombarda.

The main goal of this initiative is to foster both economic competition and the quality of life and of the Rhodense area, which is undergoing deep changes due to the deindustrialisation of the Alfa Romeo car factory. The priorities of the intervention are to foster local entrepreneurship and the improvement of the quality of life and environment of the territory.

"Ways to a European Future" Conference, Prague



The Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the Technology Centre AS CR, will organize a conference entitled "Ways to European Future" and scheduled for 11th-12th May, 2006, in Prague. The conference will be held within the ForSociety ERA-NET, which focuses on coordinating national foresight exercises. This conference is to be a dialogue on the interface between policy-making and foresight. It will be dedicated to the role of foresight as a tool in policy-making. The event should contribute to a dialogue on the European level and raise interest of policy-makers and all stakeholders in the addressed issues. For more information, please consult <http://www.tc.cz/detail/?pid=10&id=1627> <http://www.eranetforsociety.net/ForSociety/>

Diary of events

Third LNet workshop on entrepreneurship Amsterdam, 27-29 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 at the end of 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, December 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.

Please visit our website:
www.thelearningnetwork.net



For contributions and additional
information please contact het@gle.co.uk