

ECTP Bulletin

11 November 2004

BIENNIAL

At the ECTP Autumn General Assembly meeting in Prague in October, Ole Damsgaard, Chair of the Permanent International Working Party for the European Biennial, asked members for ideas and proposals for key note speakers, workshop themes and participants in panel discussions etc. The PIWP is particularly keen to have proposals for keynote speakers for the themes "*European Life and Living*" and "Planning the Future European City" and to have names from Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. Contact Ole: od@byplanlab.dk. The Biennial website is at www.cityliving-livingcity.org

European Commission - Discussion Document from DG REGIO

Legislative proposals by the European Commission for the reform of cohesion policy (2007-13 period). The current priority objectives of the Structural Funds (Objective 1: Regions lagging behind in development; Objective 2: Regions undergoing economic and social conversion; Objective 3: Training systems and employment promotion) will be replaced in 2007 by:

Convergence Objective (ERDF; ESF, Cohesion Fund)

Regional competitiveness and employment Objective (ERDF, ESF)

European territorial cooperation Objective (ERDF)

The reform aims to make structural actions more targeted on the EU's strategic priorities (Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas), more concentrated on least-favoured regions and more decentralised. The proposal includes a new regulation allowing the creation of European Groupings of Cross-border Co-operation EGCCs. Inspired by the experience of the Interreg Community Initiative, the aim is to strengthen co-operation at three levels:

- cross-border cooperation through joint programmes
- co-operation between transnational zones
- networks for co-operation and the exchange of experience throughout the Union

Further information: www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/debate/forum_en.htm

European Commission - News

The new Commissioner for Regional Policy will be Danuta Hübner of Poland (assuming the new Commission is now approved by the European Parliament). Born in Warsaw in 1948, she studied international economics and trade at the Universities of Warsaw, Sussex and Berkeley, and was Professor of Economics in Warsaw. In 1997-98 she supervised preparation for Poland's accession to the EU, and then went to the UN Economic Commission for Europe, becoming its Executive Secretary in 2000. When she returned from the UN, she became Secretary of State at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then Minister for European Affairs, before being appointed to the Commission (with responsibility for trade) in May 2004.

Articles of interest: Policy application of the new EU "open method of coordination"

An article by Tony Gore in *European Planning Studies*, Vol 12 No 1 Jan 2004 examines the way the European Employment Strategy (EES) has been taken into account in the design and initial implementation of Structural Fund programmes in the 2000-2006 round. Looks at the nature of this relationship in terms of the structures and mechanisms associated with current Objective 1 programmes operating in the UK. Illustrates the vertical and horizontal linkages between European, national and regional levels. Assesses the extent to which strategic frameworks, programme guidance and programme content have successfully integrated EES considerations. Explores issues

raised by the attempted integration of aims and concerns from one European Union (EU) policy domain into another.

CALENDAR

2005

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| 15 January | ECTP ExCo in London |
| 22-25 February | CORP Seminar on Information & Communication Technology in Urban & Spatial Planning, Vienna* |
| 13-15 March | American Planning Association international seminar "How Great Communities Happen", Riverside, California* |
| 6 or 13 May | ECTP Spring General Assembly, Brussels |
| 9-11 June | 6 th Biennial in Denmark & Sweden*; possible ECTP ExCo |
| 9 July | ExCo in London (if not held at Biennial) |
| 13-18 July | AESOP Congress "The Dream of a Greater Europe", Vienna* |
| 23-5 Sept | ECTP-ESPON Seminar, Luxembourg |
| 17-20 October | ISoCaRP Congress "Sexy Cities", Bilbao* |
| 4 or 11 Nov | CEMAT meeting, Ljubljana with ECTP Autumn GA |

*For more detail on these events go to the Forthcoming Events area of the ECTP website www.ceu-ectp.org/e/events.html

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