



Press release – 9 June 2008

MOT lead partner of the "EGTC" project (URBACT II, 2007/2013) "Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations"

The first URBACT projects for the 2007-2013 period were published on 18 April 2008, following their selection by the programme monitoring committee. They cover twenty-four topic-based networks and seven working groups. The MOT is lead partner of the EGTC project "Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations", one of the seven working groups.

The URBACT programme

URBACT is a European programme which aims to encourage **the sharing of experiences between European cities and to disseminate knowledge on sustainable urban development**.

The second cycle of the Programme, URBACT II (2007/2013), follows in the footsteps of URBACT I (2002/2006), which successfully rallied 217 cities across Europe to work in 38 different projects.

URBACT Objectives:

- Provide an exchange and learning tool for policy decision-makers, practitioners and other actors involved in developing urban policies. URBACT II is an exchange platform used to set up Thematic Networks and Working Groups, known as "Projects". Each project is essentially composed of cities, but local authorities, universities and research centres can also get involved.
- Learn from the exchanges between URBACT partners that share experiences and good practices. Draw conclusions and build on them using a thematic approach and expertise.
- Disseminate good practices and lessons learned from exchanges to all European cities. In this way, URBACT II encourages "cities to work for cities".
- Assist city policy-makers, practitioners and managers of operational programmes to define action plans. The URBACT activities must have an actual impact on local urban sustainable development practices and policies.

The "EGTC" project

The EGTC project will last for twenty-four months.

It comprises **four partners at present**:

- MOT
- Lille metropolitan urban community (for the Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai Eurometropolis, France/Belgium)
- The City of Görlitz (for the Görlitz/Zgorzelec conurbation, Germany/Poland)
- The City of Slubice (for the Frankfurt on Oder/Slubice conurbation, Germany/Poland)

The partnership will expand to a total of **six to eight partners at the end of the first phase** (May to August 2008).

The project concerns **cross-border conurbations**. These require a specific approach enabling them to overcome the limits imposed by national borders.

The partners will work on the **promotion of innovative governance instruments on a sample of cross-border conurbations in Europe**. They will identify the relevant protagonists and analyse how the cross-border conurbations develop joint diagnostics, strategies and organisation plans. The objective is to identify best practices, define a methodology and analyse how the structural funds, other public funding and legal instruments (such as the EGTC) can be used to help them in their development. Recommendations will be drafted and submitted to the political levels concerned.

Further information:

<http://urbact.eu/thematic-poles/sustainable-urban-development/working-groups/egtc/presentation.html>

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