

CoNet Final Conference

“Exploring current approaches to strengthen social cohesion in neighbourhoods”

URBACT II Programme

After almost three years of joint work, CoNet partner cities will present and share their final conclusions and findings on 31st of March, 2011 in Berlin.

Social segregation and polarisation are increasing in European cities – in spite of the fact that a lot has been done to improve sustainable living conditions in deprived areas. After years of area-based integrated social cohesion policies in Europe everybody is still learning and practising. Far-reaching changes in thinking and acting are involved – cities in Europe are working on long term processes of societal change. New EU member states started to head this way.

CoNet – the social cohesion network of eleven European cities – joined to exchange experience on how to better realise current integrated approaches to improve the situation in deprived neighbourhoods. Special interests lay in the fields of employment, education and community development.

The examples from the CoNet cities reveal the wide spectrum of multi-purpose and transversal actions to strengthen social cohesion in neighbourhoods.

“Seven core tasks for social cohesion” have proven to be crucial in bettering the situation and are also being presented at the conference.



URBACT II network – CoNet
**“Exploring current approaches to strengthen social cohesion in
neighbourhoods”**
Agenda for the Final Conference

Thursday, 31 March 2011 – 9:15-17:00

Venue : Werkstatt der Kulturen, Wissmannstraße 32, Berlin-Neukölln

Welcome and opening statement

- 9:15 **Registration**
- 9:35 **Welcome**
Wolf Schulgen, Head of Department for Housing and Socially Integrative City
Senate Department for Urban Development, Berlin
- 9:40 **Social cohesion – a prerequisite for stable communities**
Petra Nothdorf, Head of Unit Neighbourhood Management, CoNet Manager
Senate Department for Urban Development, Berlin

CoNet – overview of process and findings

- 09:50 **The seven core tasks for social cohesion –conclusions of CoNet**
Professor Dr. Rotraut Weeber, Lead Expert CoNet, Stuttgart/Berlin
- 10:35 **Setting up the framework and how to get people involved:
Zabrze’s local action plan**
Marcin Bania, Zabrze Municipality
Dr. Anna Adamus-Matuszynska, University of Economics, Katowice
- 10:55 **Discussion**
- 11:10 **Coffee break**

New governance – examples from CoNet cities

- 11:40 **Employment services: putting integrated procedures into practice**
Kim Griffiths, Head of Employment Services, Liverpool
- 12:00 **Creating links: getting the city and the disadvantaged neighbourhood act
together**
Bertil Nilsson, Project Manager, District of Fosie, Malmö
- 12:20 **Discussion**
- 12:35 **Lunch break**

**Working groups -
Comprehensive approaches: bringing targets and stakeholders together**

13:30 **4 parallel working groups**

Main topics:

1. New concepts in education

Input: Martin Gander, School of Education, Malmö University

Facilitator: Reinhard Fischer, CoNet Communication Manager, Berlin

2. Creating synergies between urban renewal investment funds and social funds

Input: Wilko van Kalkerren, Province of Gelderland

Facilitator: Petra Nothdorf, CoNet Manager, Berlin

3. Integrating minorities and fighting prejudices

Input: Nicolae Moldovan, Chief Service Alba Iulia Local Council

Facilitator: Greg Walker, CREATE UK, Liverpool

4. Cooperation between municipality, associations and citizens

Input: Beatrix Cerezo, Director of the Municipal Foundation of Social Services, Gijón

Facilitator: Heidrun Feigelfeld, Urbanist, Vienna

14:45 **Coffee break**

15:15 **URBACT programme: importance for cohesion policy and outlook**

Jean-Loup Drubigny, Head of URBACT Secretariat, Paris

15:30 **Cohesion policy in the next funding period 2014-2020**

Dr. Alexander Ferstl, European Commission, DG Regio, Brussels

Panel discussion:

Towards social cohesion – how to use synergies of integrated approaches

15:45 **Chaired by:**

Heidrun Feigelfeld, Urbanist, Lead Expert URBACT network SUITE, Vienna

Participants:

Representatives from CoNet cities

16:45 **Discussion**

17:00 **End of conference**

Organizer: Senate Department for Urban Development, Berlin; Section Socially Integrative City, Lead Partner CoNet

Conference language: English; simultaneous translation into German, except for workshops

Registration: please confirm your participation by e-mail until March 11 to urbact.conet@senstadt.berlin.de