

HOUS-ES Thematic Network Newsletter no 6

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Network Partners: Poznan (PL, Lead Partner), Prague (CZ), Brindisi (I), Budapest-Csepel (H), Sopot (PL), Brno (CZ), Olsztyn (PL), Duisburg (D), Dunaujvaros (H), Warsaw (PL), Grand Lyon (F), Province Gelderland (NL)

Associate Partners: Architects' Council of Europe, Politecnico di Milano, Council of Europe Development Bank, CECODHAS

THE FINAL EDITION OF HOUS-ES NEWSLETTER!!!

FEATURE ARTICLE

Welcome to the sixth and at the same time final edition of Hous-Es Newsletter!



Hous-Es Thematic Network under the URBACT Program has been (successfully!) operating for 24 months now. It means that on 31st December 2007 we are officially closing the Project.



The Hous-Es Network in partnership with the Urban.Logement Intergroup has organised on 7 November 2007 an event in the European Parliament Building which marked the Network's final conference scheduled to

take place in Brussels on 7th and 8th November 2007. **Alfonso Andria MEP** (ALDE Group, Vice-President of the Urban Housing Intergroup and the Rapporteur of the European Parliament Own-Initiative Report on Housing and Regional Policy adopted in May 2007) who chaired the meeting, called for the identification, at European level, of a series of European quality indicators defining the concept of 'adequate housing'¹.

Danuta Hübner, Commissioner for Regional Policy gave a **keynote speech** at this event attended by MEPs, Mayors of Partner Cities, and administrators at European, national, regional and local level, as well as experts and other stakeholders. In her opening words the Commissioner said:

"Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like first of all to thank all those who contributed to and organized this final conference of the HOUS-ES Thematic Network. The management and renewal of large housing estates is indeed a critical issue for many cities of the European Union. Your network has produced an interesting and wide-ranging set of conclusions and recommendations, addressed not only to local practitioners but to all actors in this field, including those at European level.

That is why I am pleased to speak to you today and would like to thank the organizers and those who have actively contributed to the HOUSE-ES network..."

Krzysztof Baczynski, Hous-Es Network Manager, presented the **operational conclusions and recommendations** formulated by Hous-Es on the basis of exchange of good practice and of a series of topical seminars and reflection work. Further to these recommendations the Hous-Es final output also includes **practical tools to assist in translating them into practice**, as well as **21 case studies** from Partner cities and a **Tutorial Package**.

Another tool worthwhile mentioning is the **QAT (Qualitative Assessment Technology)**. It is interactive software that was designed specifically within the context of the Hous-Es proceedings. It takes stock of some important political developments observed in the last few years namely, the Bristol Accord, the Rotterdam Urban Acquis and the recently adopted Leipzig Charter on Sustainable Cities, and of the new opportunities offered by the new generation of EU Structural Funds and Cohesion Policy 2007-2013, notably for the renovation of housing in the New Member States. QAT helps to analyse and compare the quality of regeneration projects, points out to their deficiencies and supports decision-making. In short, it will serve as a practical tool to assess the quality of sustainable communities in European housing estates, districts and cities.

One of the Hous-Es Network's early belief, and also a confirmed conclusion, was that **to achieve successful regeneration of housing estates it is essential to adopt holistic and integrated approaches**, whether within the context of a neighbourhood or of the city as a whole, and to integrate all aspects of inter-related and complex urban systems. Short-term, partial solutions while solving certain acute problems prove ineffective when striving to achieve sustainable development. Moreover, renovation operations whose lifespan often extend over many years must be decided irrespective of the political term-in-office. In this understanding the Hous-Es Network addressed the following dimensions of urban regeneration: physical aspects (notably architectural quality and sustainability), energy, social economic and environmental aspects, financial issues, the institutional context, while also giving specific attention to the public realm as an important element of sustainable communities. It is these elements together that come into play to improve the **quality of life**.



A second session of the Hous-Es conference was held on the 8th of November in the Committee of the Regions. It was intended as a **Working Session** during which the Network Partners



¹ Report on *Housing and Regional Policy* (2006/2108(INI)), Committee on Regional Development (European Parliament), Rapporteur: Alfonso Andria

addressed selected topics and discussed the recommendations of the final report with the aim to formulate specific recommendations on concrete steps to give a follow up to immensely valuable work done over the past two years.

Whilst the Hous-Es Thematic Network was the last thematic network launched in the first period of the EU URBACT Programme it is hoped that its findings will be capitalised and will also serve as a starting point for further fieldwork under URBACT II.



Let me thank again Mr. Alfonso Andria for chairing this conference and for help in co-organizing this event

It was the greatest honour to welcome Commissioner Danuta Hübner to whom I would like to express my deepest appreciation for her participation in this event

Let me thank the Mayor of Poznań Mr. Ryszard Grobelny and the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Tomasz J. Kayser, for making it possible for me to run the Project efficiently. I realize that it must have taken a great deal of courage for the authorities to assume the role of a Lead Partner, especially since never before have a city from new EU Member States coordinated an URBACT thematic network.

I would also like to express my gratitude and appreciation to:

- Jean-Loup Drubigny and the whole team of URBACT Secretariat for fruitful cooperation and support

- all Project Partners: Both Mayors and city representatives: Gelderland, Duisburg, Sopot, Prague, Grand Lyon, Dunaujvaros, Warsaw, Brindisi, Brno, Olsztyn and Budapest-Csepel, as well as the Associate Partners: Architects' Council of Europe, CECODHAS, Council of Europe Development Bank and Politecnico di Milano. I appreciate your enthusiasm, joint effort and team spirit.

- Thematic Experts: Philip Stein, Olgierd Dziekoński and Antonio Borghi for their endeavour, production and a helping hand, as well as David Frössler for his advice at the initial stage of the project
- Urban-Logement Integroup for assistance and encouragement from the very beginning
- I am addressing special and sincere thanks to the Project Assistant, Barbara Kałużna, for her endless support, tremendous workload and invaluable loyalty
- and all the others who have been keeping their fingers crossed for us!



Let me also, at this special time, wish you a Merry Christmas and a Successful New Year. I do believe that "Hous-Es Era" also produced additional, personal values to us all. I also hope that the Network's outputs will help to develop new interesting European projects under URBACT II.

Thank you again for everything and best wishes to you all!

Krzysztof Baczyński
Hous-Es URBACT Thematic Network
Project Manager



USEFUL LINKS

Hous-Es Thematic Network

www.urbact.org/hous-es

Official website of the City of Poznan

www.city.poznan.pl

Official website of the City of Prague

www.praha-mesto.cz

Official website of the City of Brindisi

www.comune.brindisi.it

Official website of the City of Budapest-Csepel

www.csepel.hu

Official website of the City of Sopot

www.sopot.pl

Official website of the City of Brno

www.brno.cz

Official website of the City of Dunaujvaros

www.dunaujvaros.hu

Official website of the City of Olsztyn

www.um.olsztyn.pl

Official website of the City of Duisburg EG-DU

www.eg-du.de

Official website of the City of Warszawa

www.warszawa.um.gov.pl

Official website of the City of Grand Lyon

www.grandlyon.org

Official website of the Gelderland Province

www.gelderland.nl

Official website of the Architects' Council of Europe

www.ace-cae.org

Official website of the City of Politecnico di Milano

www.polimi.it/english/

Official website of the Council of Europe Development Bank

www.coebank.org

Official website of CECODHAS

www.cecodhas.org

DG Regio

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/regional_policy/index_en.htm

CECODHAS

www.cecodhas.org

Committee of Regions

www.cor.eu.int

C O N T A C T

Project Manager

Krzysztof Baczynski
Poznan Municipality
Plac Kolegiacki 17
61-841 Poznan
tel. +48 61 852 02 23
mobile +48 698 43 67 52
e-mail: krzysztof_baczynski@um.poznan.pl

Project Assistant

Barbara Kaluzna
Poznan Municipality
tel. +48 61 852 02 23
mobile +48 698 43 42 65
e-mail: barbara_kaluzna@um.poznan.pl

Edited by

Vasco da Gama
ul. Taczaka 10
61-818 Poznań, Poland
e-mail: info@vascodagama.pl

