

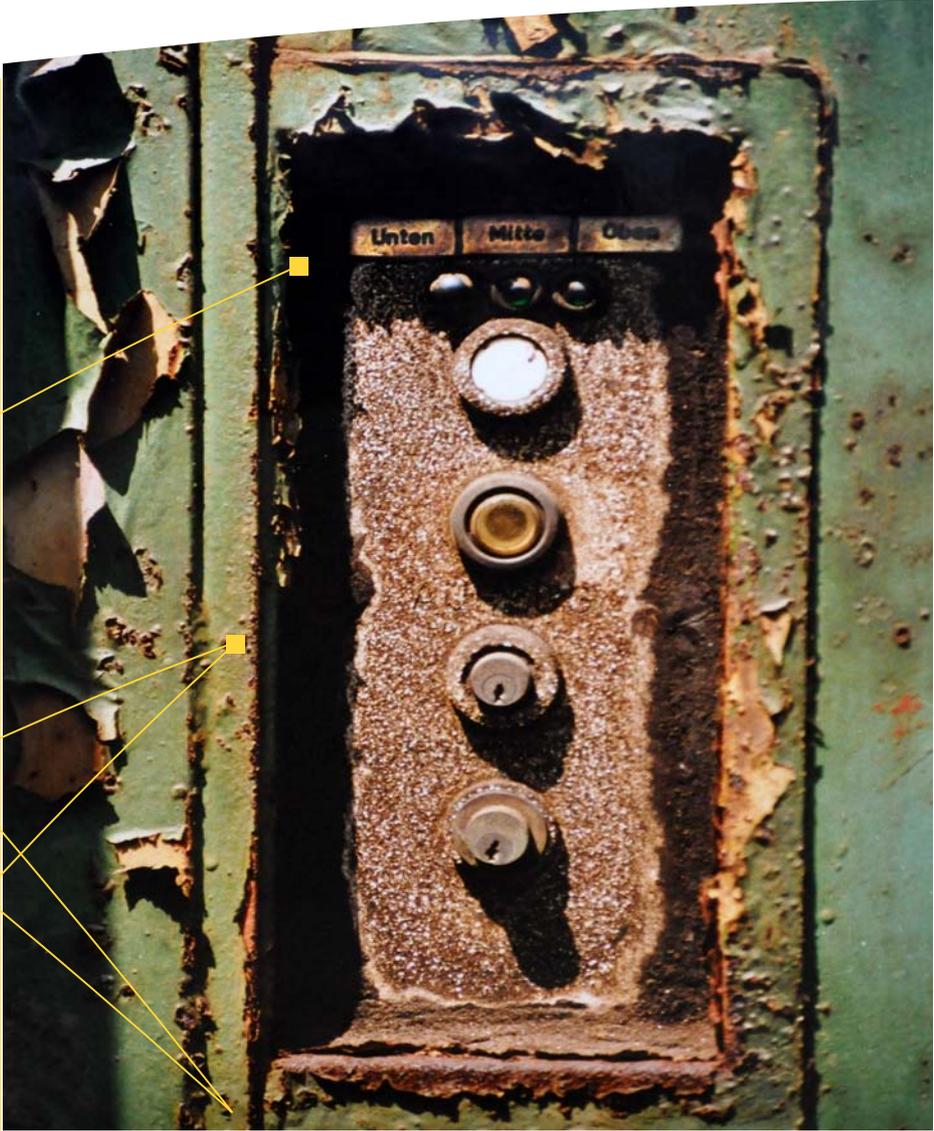
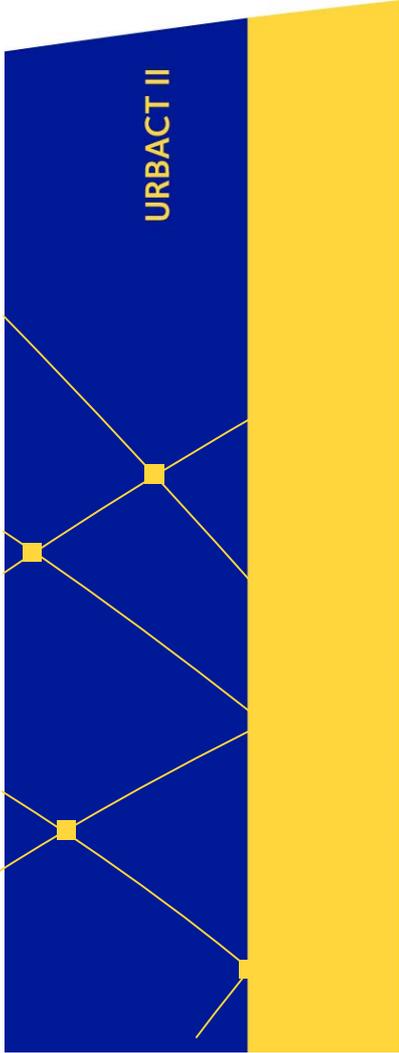


"Regions, Cities, Neighbourhoods - strong Partners"

Newsletter N°2 REGGOV

December 2009

Regional Governance of Sustainable Integrated
Development of Deprived Urban Areas



Connecting cities
Building successes





REGGOV-NEWSLETTER # 2

INTRODUCTION

The second edition of the RegGov newsletter informs briefly on two implemented network seminars – the 2nd Thematic Seminar in Nijmegen (Netherlands) and the Joint Seminar for Managing Authorities and the European Commission in Budapest (Hungary).

Afterwards an article about the project “NRW Fit for Europe” presents as a practice example how North Rhine-Westphalia has implemented URBACT & EU dissemination and exchange on the regional level.

Then an article of local experiences deals with the regeneration process of the “Kaufhaus” neighbourhood in Ruda Śląska (Poland).

Two further contributions of RegGov partners describe their practical experiences relating to the work with their Local Support Group and the development of a Local Action Plan.

At the end, the newsletter closures with some short news to advice you of further matters relating to the network.

INDEX

Site	2	Introduction and Index
Site	3	Report of RegGov 2 nd Thematic Seminar and Joint Seminar for MA & EC
Site	4	Dissemination & Exchange URBACT & EU on regional level in North Rhine-Westphalia
Site	5	Local Experiences Regeneration process of Kaufhaus neighbourhood in Ruda Śląska
Site	7	Good Practice Guidance – Mapping for the Future in Södertälje and in Siracusa
Site	9	RegGov Calendar [News]
Site	10	Imprint

REPORT OF REGGOV

3

Joint Seminar for MAs & EC in Budapest



On 5 and 6 October 2009, the Joint Seminar for Managing Authorities and the European Commission was held in Budapest (Hungary). RegGov Partner City Kőbánya prepared all organisational details supported by the Hungarian Ministry for National Development and Economy.

The meeting focused on the question how good forms of governance and vertical co-operation for Integrated Urban Development Planning can be developed and maintained between cities and their regional authorities.

As a basis for this debate, a Thematic Cluster of a limited number of RegGov Partners has held a seminar in Halandri in June 2009 to discuss good examples of regional co-operation in Europe and to specify the needs of cities for such activities from their Managing Authorities.

The findings and conclusions of this seminar has been presented to the Managing Authorities and the European Commission during the Joint Seminar in Budapest. At the same time, this seminar was an important opportunity to stimulate a structured debate concerning the implementation of Regional Operational Programmes and the use of European Structural Funds between representatives from the European Commission and the participating Managing Authorities. A report on the seminar's conclusions will be published on the project's website within a short time.

2nd Thematic Seminar in Nijmegen



On 9 and 10 November 2009, the Second Thematic Seminar was held in Nijmegen (Netherlands), involving all partner cities of the network as well as their Managing Authorities and a representative from the European Commission. The topic of the Seminar was: 'How to monitor progress and achievements in Integrated Neighbourhood Regeneration?'

For the participating cities, this is a crucial topic because they have only limited resources to overcome the problems in their deprived urban neighbourhoods and need such monitoring and evaluation tools to make the best possible use of these scarce resources. For the participating Managing Authorities, this topic is equally essential as they provide financial support to such local programmes and strategies and need to measure and analyse which projects and strategic elements work well and which ones need to be improved.



During the first day of the seminar, the participants visited the RegGov target area by solar train – the so-called 'waterkwartier'. The next newsletter will illuminate this in detail.

The results of the Second Thematic Seminar will be published on the project's website within a short time and will then be used as a basis for the work in the further Thematic Cluster Meetings on 'Monitoring Systems'.

DISSEMINATION & EXCHANGE

4

URBACT & EU on regional level in North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)

- NRW Fit for Europe -

A few cities in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) like the City of Duisburg, Dortmund or Aachen are involved in European networks and recognized the important European impact on urban development. Beyond that, there is a need to learn and to participate in European structures. For that, the Ministry of Building and Traffic of NRW and the City Network 'Socially Integrative Cities' created the project '*NRW Fit for Europe*' to focus the discussion on European topics, such as financing, networking and also European and public relations.

All members of the City Network 'Socially Integrative Cities' take part on a correspondent inter-departmental funding programme for deprived urban neighbourhoods. The City Network was funded ten years ago to ensure an experience exchange among the concerned neighbourhoods.

The idea to connect the North Rhine-Westphalian network with European ones is simple and efficient. The concept of the project '*NRW Fit for Europe*' is a learning process in two dimensions: NRW wants to create a dissemination point for European topics on regional level. Experiences of the European partner cities are an important source of information and know-how. In the other dimension local actors in European deprived neighbourhoods could benefit from the experiences of more than ten years in urban renewal and long term and integrative planning strategies presented by NRW.



Art for stairs in the City of Wuppertal is a project to secure public spaces by design.

Working Modules:

Being active in European Networks

- URBACT II RegGov: Based on the lead partnership of Duisburg in URBACT II, '*NRW Fit for Europe*' aims a close connecting on the working of URBACT. Experiences, discussions and results out of the RegGov project are useful in further cities. Outcoming documents or presentations will be disseminated in German language. Additional financial resources allow the continuous participation of further North Rhine-Westphalian cities in the RegGov Cluster-Meetings or Seminars such as during the last meeting in Nijmegen. Also the European project partner will benefit from the North Rhine-Westphalian input.
- URBAN: Duisburg and Dortmund represent NRW in the 'German-Austrian URBAN Network'. Discussions and results will be disseminated throughout the North Rhine-Westphalian network.

Communicating North Rhine Westphalian urban development policy in Europe

English publications on the North Rhine-Westphalian approach on deprived urban areas and its long time learning process make success stories and best practice projects accessible for interested partner in Europe.

Training the Cities

The main part of North Rhine-Westphalian Cities are interested in European activities or funding opportunities but are in need of more know-how or capacities. Qualifying workshops and the dissemination of interesting topics are held for the cities staff.

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LOCAL EXPERIENCES

5

Regeneration process of Kaufhaus neighbourhood in Ruda Śląska (Poland)

The city of Ruda Śląska developed due to intense industrial activity whose effects are currently noticeable in economic, infrastructural and social fields. In the period of the dynamic industrial development a great number of working-class neighbourhoods came into existence, but after industrial plants had closed down they got degraded and these days they are characterized by low quality of living conditions. However, they have high historical and architectural value. The most famous and characteristic neighbourhood is the Kaufhaus area, which is located not far from the city centre. The community of about 1.500 people inhabiting the neighbourhood is a social group of low financial status, often unemployed, receiving welfare benefits, and even socially excluded. The neighbourhood requires revitalisation in infrastructural and social respect.

For a couple of years the municipal authorities have been trying to improve the situation of this neighbourhood. So far elevations of a number of residential buildings have been renovated. However, only now a chance for making a real step forward has emerged. Since 2008 the neighbourhood has been included in the complex activities of a few projects:

- RegGov within URBACT II Programme;
- Local Activity Programme for Kaufhaus within the Human Capital Operational Programme;
- Modernization and Renovation of the historic Kaufhaus Neighbourhood.



An important element of the neighbourhood development process is the commitment showed by its inhabitants. It is not an easy task due to a specific social potential of the neighbourhood, but the consolidation of efforts made by a few entity groups: local authorities, a number of departments of the City Council (investment, real estate, social affairs, city development), the City Welfare Centre, as well as other institutions, organizations and inhabitants forming the Local Support Group may bring a lot of benefits for the future of the neighbourhood. It is important to convince the residents that there is a need to undertake such actions. The result of the currently performed activities is the fact that a larger and larger group of residents shows a more and more friendly attitude towards these actions and decides to get committed. A growing group of residents participate in trainings, workshops, meetings, and events organized in the neighbourhood, which helps creating a peculiar climate of understanding and common thinking about the future. It is a really desirable effect of the work of the Local Support Group.



The result of this common thinking about the future will be the Local Action Plan for the Kaufhaus neighborhood. It shall determine the starting point, including the social and economic description of the area, the analysis of strengths and weaknesses (SWOT), vision, goals and directions for further development and a list of specific activities which are undertaken in order to implement the vision. We are planning to combine the theory with the practice and use the already acquired experience and the good practices implemented by more experienced partners of the RegGov Project. The Local Action Plan will be also a model for

the revitalisation of other neighbourhoods located in the area of the city of Ruda Śląska which are in a similar situation.

Activities already run in the Kaufhaus neighbourhood and plans for the future are strictly connected with the support of the European Union. The Local Activity Program implemented by the City Welfare Center of Ruda Śląska obtained financial support from the European Social Fund within the 2007-2013 Human Capital Operational Programme. The assumption of the project is the every year activation of another group of inhabitants and involving them in the revitalization process. The project of Modernization and Renovation of the Historic Neighbourhood Kaufhaus, within which physical and spatial renovation of the neighbourhood is expected, will apply for the funding from the European Regional Development Fund, accessible within the Regional Operational Programme of the Silesian Voivodship for the years 2007-2013.

At the moment first activities are conducted in the field of water and sewage infrastructure, which for now are funded by the city budget.

Activities in the field of revitalization of the Kaufhaus neighbourhood are supported and promoted through the exchange of good practices at the regional and national level, especially by the Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts. Acting as the National Dissemination Point of the URBACT II Programme in Poland, the association created a platform of information exchange. It also organizes conferences, meetings, and trainings concerning the city policies for all Polish cities participating in projects under the URBACT II Programme (<http://urbactdwa.silesia.org.pl/>).

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Mapping for the Future: Analysis, Dialogue and Planning

Part I: Ronna (Södertälje, Sweden)

- *What is the relationship between the geographic and the social structures of a neighbourhood?*
- *How can we utilize these connections in the planning process in dialogue with residents and other stakeholders?*

The Local Support Group of the RegGov network project in Södertälje has examined these questions with respect to the development of a Local Action Plan for the intriguing yet challenging neighbourhood of Ronna. These discussions have investigated the many provocative and potentially productive disjunctures between Ronna's local *human resources* – i.e., active residents, a strong social life, and a large number of young people – and *structural difficulties* – such as numerous buildings in need of renovation, a negative media image, and the perception that earlier projects have been mostly ineffective. Dialogues between members of the Local Support Group have focused on how to bridge these gaps through planning, with emphasis on both physical and social components.

A number of ongoing studies connected to the work of the Local Support Group are currently taking place within the Community Planning Department of Södertälje. These studies seek to interrogate Ronna in an effort to analyse not only existing conditions, but also to provide initial gestures toward a Local Action Plan. For instance, an intern in the planning section of the department, Jennifer Mack, who is also a PhD candidate in urban studies and social anthropology at Harvard University, has been examining the physical and social structures of the neighbourhood through a number of mapping exercises. These include a close investigation of Ronna's ownership pattern, which makes visible the territories claimed by both the municipal housing authority and private companies and individuals. Since a holistic plan for Ronna's future is envisioned, this map may provide guidance with respect to the ways in which local actors may perceive themselves as stakeholders and property owners, along with their associated rights and responsibilities.



Some of the other analytical maps of Ronna that Mack is currently preparing examine how planned and unplanned physical interventions intersect in the neighbourhood. For example, one map shows the official pedestrian paths and sidewalks created and built by the city of Södertälje, together with the numerous spontaneous paths in the neighbourhood that have developed over time from residents' repeated use of pedestrian desire lines. Here, the difference between the planned and desired city become visible, which may provide vital information about how to consider Ronna's pedestrians in the future.

Anders Bäcklander, Deputy Director of the Community Planning Department, and Jennifer Mack currently envision that these cartographic analyses may be employed in an exhibition to take place in Ronna Centrum, the area's largest shopping and service centre, during the late spring of 2010.



This exhibition would likely occur in collaboration with the Office of Culture and Recreation in Södertälje. With the maps possibly presented on large outdoor panels, residents of Ronna would be able to examine the ways in which their neighbourhood has been analysed and

given opportunity to react and participate in a dialogue about Ronna's future with members of the Local Support Group and other stakeholders. With the help of an architect and trace paper that they can draw on themselves, residents would then be given the chance to revise Mack's representations of Ronna to indicate their own understanding of the neighbourhood, and to propose changes that they feel would result in a safer, more attractive, and better-functioning local urban environment.



In short, these new forms of urban analyses of Ronna, along with other studies being conducted by the Local Support Group, may enable a new kind of productive dialogue to take place about the future of the neighbourhood. When the residents, the economic stakeholder and members of the LSG can interact and debate about current conditions through their representation, a Local Action Plan may be developed that will have a better chance of success, being based on real perceptions of existing conditions and actual desires for change.

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**Mapping for the Future:
Analysis, Dialogue and Planning**

Part II: Siracusa (Italy)

In the city of Siracusa, the Local Action Plan for the ReGov project is focusing on the areas called Akradina, Grotta Santa and S. Lucia. These three areas present some difficult problems related to the quality of living, building, micro-criminality and immigration. The Municipality of Syracuse is now developing a series of composite actions in the frame of integrated and sustainable local development, inserted in the Local Strategic Plan and in line with the URBACT II programme.

Moreover, Siracusa aims now to improve its consolidated development model for a progressive recuperation of degraded building heritage linked with an integrated approach in policies of prevention, recuperation and social insertion of young people and disadvantaged persons.

In reason of that, Siracusa is ready to offer the codification of methods and good practices in some themes like: multifunctional re-connection among neighbouring quarters with new employment creation; integrated approach and Public

Private Partnership systems for local and durable development projects; promotion of local economies and sustainable urban development.

To carry out the listed activities, the membership of the Local Support Group is formed by local administrators, stakeholders and politicians. The LSG involves also some actors in a position to contribute to its design and implementation (directors of schools in disadvantaged areas, city representatives of the areas involved, etc.). During the work in the RegGov project, it is necessary to take into account that this partner city has never tested, up to now, the experience of bottom-up approach, but it is also evident a general enthusiasm and a strong willingness of the participants involved (included also private, cultural, social and environmental associations, trade unions, etc.). They may be capable to discuss and share common urban issues in planning key.

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REGGOV CALENDAR NEWS

RegGov at the URBACT Annual Conference 2009

One of the duties of the Lead Partner is the coordination and representation of the network at Programme level and beyond. One event where the network has been represented was the URBACT Annual Conference 2009 which was held on 25 November 2009 in Stockholm. The URBACT Annual Conference is a unique opportunity to bring together all URBACT partners, cities, regions, Managing Authorities, experts, etc. in order to support a wider exchange of experiences in the context of the programme, to share interim results and showcase the work of the projects.

From RegGov were presented: Brigitte Grandt and Dominik Erbeling (Duisburg, Lead Partner City), Wilko van Kalker (Province of Gelderland, Managing Authority), Hendrik-Jan ter Schegget (Municipality of Nijmegen), Mariagiovanna Laudani (Municipality of Siracusa) Anders Bäcklander (Municipality of Södertälje), Iuliu Ilyes (Mayor of Satu Mare) and Bernd Mielke (Ministry of Building and Transport of North Rhine-Westphalia, MA).



Beyond the URBACT themes, the Annual Conference focused on the challenges facing European cities today: the consequences of the world-wide economic crisis and the impact of climate change. The day was organised around

- an opening plenary session,
- two series of five parallel workshops,

- the European URBACT café (allowing participants to have informal but moderated discussions on their experience),
- a final Round Table.

One of the workshops focussed on the RegGov topic "Getting things done! The challenges of vertical cooperation in integrated neighbourhood development - linking Managing Authorities to the cities". In the framework of this workshop, the RegGov partners Mr Bernd Mielke and Mr Anders Bäcklander given a contribution to the discussion about their experiences.



Reprogramming procedure of Belovo

Concerning the drop-out of the City of Belovo, the Lead Partner has initialised the reprogramming procedure. The Monitoring Committee decided about that at the end of November 2009. Meanwhile, the Monitoring Committee advised agreeing to the reprogramming procedure. In case of any questions relating to that, please do not hesitate to contact the Lead Partner.

RegGov Newsletter

The editorial office want to thanks for the contributions and support from our partners to prepare this newsletter. For the subsequent newsletter further support of the partners is necessary to fill them up with interesting reports and news. For any requests, proposals or questions contact the RegGov Communication Officer, Dominik Erbeling.

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The RegGov-Homepage:

http://urbact.eu/reg_gov

Merry Christmas

The Lead Partner of the RegGov network
is wishing everyone a **Merry Christmas**
and a happy **New Year 2010** !

We also wish an excellent continuation to our
common project and an effective and
enjoyable co-operation and partnership
with you all!

Your Lead Partner Team


European Union
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 EUROPEAN
PROGRAMME
FOR
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DEVELOPMENT
