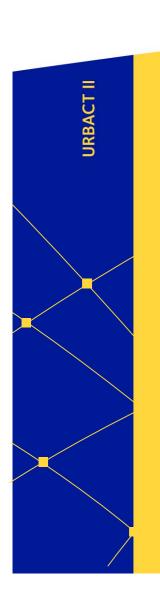


# **Newsletter #4 REGGOV**



Regional Governance of Sustainable Integrated **Development of Deprived Urban Areas** 













# **REGGOV NEWSLETTER #4**

## INTRODUCTION

The fourth edition of the RegGov newsletter focuses on the core work within the RegGov project. The first three of four cluster meetings with defined topics have already taken place. Therefore, RegGov partners involved in the accordant clusters contribute their impressions of the meetings and give a brief overview on the two-day meetings with their contents and discussions.

Each of the RegGov cluster meetings followed a Local Support Group meeting which the Lead Partner Brigitte Grandt and Petra Potz, the Lead Expert, attended. As result of the LSG meetings, an article within this newsletter describes the processes of participation in integrated neighbourhood development, directly from the local level.

One further highlight of the newsletter is the article on the integrated urban development plan of the city of Satu Mare which represents a good practice example of the RegGov network.

At the end, the newsletter closures with interesting news related to the RegGov network.

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## REPORT OF REGGOV

## IMPRESSIONS OF THE SECOND ROUND OF CLUSTER MEETINGS

In the framework of the second round of cluster meetings within the RegGov project, the first three of four cluster meetings with their defined topics have already taken place in April and May 2010. In the following, RegGov partners involved in the accordant clusters contribute their impressions of the meetings and give us an brief overview on the two-day meetings and their contents and discussions.

Cluster 2 "Private Sector" in Satu Mare (Romania), April 2010 Impressions of Nicoleta Lasan, City of Satu Mare

The second meeting of the cluster 2 regarding the involvement of private sector and community representatives in efficient governance models for the regeneration of deprived urban areas took place in Satu Mare on April 26&27, 2010. More than 18 representatives of the following cities which are partners in the project attended the meeting: Ruda Slaska, Nijmegen, Södertälje, Nyíregyháza, Köbanya, Witten and Duisburg with its Managing Authorithy, the Ministry of Building and Transport of North Rhine-Westphalia.



The cluster meeting focused on topics such as housing and regeneration of disadvantaged areas, local economy and employment, and integrated urban neighbourhood development. The topics were addressed by all of the participant cities in a presentation and have been discussed afterwards; in two words an interactive cluster. Everyone had the possibility

not only to present the local situation, but all received feedback and suggestions from the others, or even models and good practice examples.





The programme also included a site visit in the RegGov target area defined by the city of Satu Mare. Among others there have been visited the spots where the projects included in the Integrated Urban Development Plan are going to be situated, the night shelter, and the Social Welfare Department. In the second day the participants have asked for a visit which would give them the chance to have a general view of the city's look and development. The general impression of the participants was that many things have been done and still need to be done, but the city has advantages which it could beneficiate from. The third day included a meeting with the LSG of Satu Mare, and has been taken the decision on moving further from a local action plan to a general development strategy for the city.

Looking back at those days, the organizers' feeling is that the majority of the participants have never visited before Romania and that the visit was good in order to make them acquainted with our country. Moreover, the participants were impressed by everything which happens here, the potential to develop more in the future, and most important the hospitality of the people.

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Cluster 1 "Regional Co-operation" in Ruda Slaska (Poland), May 2010 Impressions of Bet Ratering, City of Nijmegen

The RegGov partner city Nijmegen participated in the meeting in Ruda Slaska with Hendrik-Jan ter Schegget, manager of urban renewal, and Bet Ratering, process manager of city-policy, and also with Paul Stein, as representative of the associated Managing Authority, Province of Gelderland. In the two days we were there we had working sessions which generally took place from nine o'clock to five o'clock.



The main aim of the meeting was to exchange on regional co-operation for integrated neighbourhood development in the participating cities, especially concentrating on plans for local urban renewal in Ruda Slaska, the Kaufhaus neighbourhood.



The most important and impressive visit for me was to the Kaufhaus neighbourhood, a community of about 1.500 people with a low financial status, often unemployed, receiving welfare benefits and socially excluded. We visited this area a few times, talked to inhabitants and saw the place for childcare. The inhabitants live there for generations. The local inhabitants who want to improve the conditions in which they live are proud of their neighbourhood and are willing to put lots of energy in actions.



Policy makers in Ruda Slaska are not confronted with huge immigration problems. For example, we saw no Roma and heard that only a few Roma families live in the city.

Polish young professionals who went to university in Katowice or Krakow are eager and ambitious to find European funds for the renovation of residential buildings and are persuading inhabitants to participate in trainings, workshops, meetings and events to create a climate of understanding and common thinking about the future. Ruda Slaska is an area where

people used to work in coal mines. The parents of the young people we met often have worked in the mines. The mayor of Ruda Slaska for example has grown up in the Kaufhaus area. Most of these mines are closed now.





The RegGov Lead Partner, the City of Duisburg, put a lot of effort into supporting the development of a Local Action Plan for the Kaufhaus Neighbourhood, together with the partners present (Nijmegen, Halandri and Ruda Slaska, and also the associated MAs from North Rhine-Westphalia and Silesia). Main topics of the working sessions were the integrated approach and the participation of local people and how to use the network for the local needs. A result was the importance of taking small steps having in mind a broader city-wide strategy.

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# Cluster 3 "Integration" in Köbanya (Hungary), May 2010

Impressions of Viktoria Hegedus, City of Köbanya

The second meeting of Cluster 3 was held in the Municipality of Köbanya (Budapest) on May 17-18. The main theme of the meeting was the integration of Roma communities into the life of cities and how this can be translated into direct actions in our action plans.



As the timing of the Cluster 3 meeting luckily coincided with the meeting of a newly formed Fast-Track labelled URBACT network called "Roma-Net", we had a very good opportunity to hear about their program. The Roma-Net coordinator is the Municipality of Budapest, and they have partners from all over Europe: Bologna, Almeria, Udine, Timisoara, Amadora, Kosice, Heraklion and Karvina.

Roma-Net believes that the integration of Roma populations is a key factor in a cohesive society, as well as in delivering the goals of the Lisbon Strategy. Their main objectives are to establish trans-national exchange to share policy, planning and good practices; capacity building for professional development including a tool-box of examples; and production of Local Action Plans which connect policies and projects to available financial means. Roma-Net has identified three key priorities for their activities:

- Access to key services for the Roma population;
- Active inclusion of Roma into the labour market through education and training;
- Building self help capacity in Roma communities.

The Budapest co-ordinator of Roma-Net has been working with Rev 8 urban renewal company of District 8 in Budapest. As part of our Cluster 3 morning session, the representative of Rev 8 gave a presentation of their ongoing projects focusing on the integration of Roma and other deprived communities.

After the Roma-Net session, the Cluster 3 meeting continued with working sessions focusing on various aspects of Roma integration:

- infrastructural, housing issues and how to share public space;
- how to live together: social and cultural integration;
- education and employment problems and challenges.

In each session, RegGov partner cities presented those aspects of their projects which influence the way they deal with the integration of Roma and other deprived groups of the community. Dortmund has been trying to cope with an influx of unskilled immigrants from a specific part of Bulgaria; in Satu Mare long-term solutions are needed in improving both the physical environment and a social inclusion of the poorest part of the community.



Besides the efforts being made by the partner cities Satu Mare, Dortmund and Köbanya, the extensive social inclusion program of Nyiregyhaza is also worth emphasizing.

Nyiregyhaza RegGov members talked about the efforts they made to improve the housing quality, such as the renovation of an apartment block on Ungvar street or the complex social renewal program of the Huszar estate. In addition to the renewal of the physical environment, the quality of the education of Roma children is being improved by a school integration program, and the old school building had been turned into a cultural centre. The social inclusion program also offers various training programs even in communication and 'appearance' in order to increase the chances of a successful job hunt.





In addition to the working sessions, the Reg-Gov partners had a chance to get acquainted with some projects and organizations of the Municipality of Köbanya. We had a visit to the Köbanya Childcare Centre, where Mrs Ambrus Zsuzsanna gave an short overview of how the centre works. We also visited the Family Sup-

port Service of Köbanya, where Mrs Szabo Katalin talked about the numerous programs and assistance that help the life of local families in need. Mrs Szabo accompanied us to the site of the Bihari street social urban renewal project. This EU project has just been finished, which makes a very good starting point for new projects: we need to draw a lesson from the outcome of finished projects and avoid repeating the old mistakes. A very delicate balance of physical intervention (construction/renovation of new homes) and social intervention is needed in order to get the best results concerning the integration of communities in deprived neighbourhoods.

Although the unusually cold and windy May weather posed some challenges to our Cluster 3 meeting in Köbanya, we had a very good, informal meeting with lively discussion. We even had an opportunity to socialize with the Roma-Net members during the dinner, so we made the best us of our time and by the end of the meeting, we had a better understanding of our seemingly different, but often very similar problems and challenges regarding the integration of Roma and other deprived communities.

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## LSG WORK WITHIN REGGOV

# PARTICIPATION PROCESSES IN INTEGRATED NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Impressions of the work of the Local Support Groups in Satu Mare, Ruda Slaska and Köbanya / Budapest

Integrated approaches to the revitalization of deprived urban neighbourhoods are specially designed to meet the unique needs of each individual community. Just as unique is the involvement of local stakeholders in the development of integrated action plans, which are not only dependent on the political and cultural traditions of each individual country, but also on the democratic culture and the active stakeholders that they have at hand.

The following text describes impressions of the activities of the Local Support Groups from Satu Mare, Ruda Slaska and Köbanya. The Lead Expert Petra Potz and Brigitte Grandt, Lead Partner, attended these meetings each of them following a RegGov cluster meeting.

#### Satu Mare:

"From Neighbourhood Development to Citywide Development"

Representatives from various municipal departments and social service institutions participated in the Cluster Meeting in Satu Mare. The development of the Local Action Plan was an entirely new challenge for the participants and was at first a great source of uneasiness. For this reason they relied heavily on the RegGov Lead expert to provide structure and moderation, not venturing to take the task upon themselves alone. There was the fear of not being taken seriously by the other group members. The entrance of external support led to the professional and goal-oriented organisation of the process. However, in order to now build sustainable, self-supporting structures, responsibility has to be taken on by the stakeholders in Satu Mare. Participants unanimously agreed that the municipal department "European Information Centre of the Municipality of Satu Mare" should be responsible for managing the future organization of this process.



During this meeting the LSG decided to draft a citywide development strategy for Satu Mare. To this end, the city was divided into seven neighbourhoods. A person will be nominated to be in charge for each neighbourhood. Different departments within the municipal government are going to indicate areas in which there is a need for action based on their specialist knowledge. In seven "Future Conferences" a vision for the neighbourhoods, an agreement as to their problems, priorities and approaches will be discussed. The individual strategies will be joined together into a citywide development strategy for the City of Satu Mare.

#### Ruda Slaska:

"The excellent women of Kaufhaus"

"Kaufhaus" is an old working-class neighbourhood next to the steelworks dating back to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the residents are poor and are recipients of public assistance. No significant renovations have been undertaken on the housing since its construction. The apartment buildings are heating with coal, and between each floor there are only common bathroom facilities. The first design projects for public spaces are underway. A social work centre and a day care centre have been constructed.



A social worker responsible for the community, Michal Szydlowski, and the person responsible for the URBACT programme in Ruda Slaska, Tomasz Rzezucha, and ten active women from the neighbourhood participated in the Local Support Group Meeting. The women came dressed in work clothes, with gloves and tools because they wanted to lead a neighbourhood clean up after the meeting. The women have a very clear understanding of the problems and needs of the families within the community. They not only criticize; they take initiative to effect change. They played a significant role in arranging the meeting place, where they carry on projects such as Arts and Crafts activities, childcare services, and community breakfasts. They have constructed a garden around the site. They organize festivals and celebrations in the neighbourhood and put on fashion shows, organize excursions, etc. They are especially proud of the small forest, which they constructed themselves.

The people in the community look out for one another. The women find it problematic that the City of Ruda Slaska place families with severe social problems in social housing in the neighbourhood without sufficient support. The integration of these difficult families presents a challenge for the social cohesion of the community. Residents have lost confidence in municipal government because promises are quickly made but change is a very slow process. The women would especially like to see public spaces being refurbished more quickly, playgrounds for kids and the possibility of receiving funding for small leisure activities such as excursions.

Pongrác housing estate in Köbanya: "Planners and citizens from Pongrác working together"

Twenty-two people participated in the Local Support Group meeting. Participants included representatives from the Köbanya municipal government and spokespersons representing the twenty large privatised apartment buildings in the neighbourhood of Pongrác. The Managing Authority was also present. A planning office proposed ideas for the refurbishment of the neighbourhood and came to an agreement with meeting participants about strategies for how to get community residents involved in the process.



The great degree of interest in the plans was evident. As people who are familiar with the local situation, participants could ask pertinent questions and discuss relevant issues. All of the participants thought it was important to increase security in the neighbourhood and decrease the amount of through traffic. There were a variety of different opinions, among other things, as to the proper location for playgrounds for children, meeting places for youths, and the placement of park benches. In the end, participants came to an agreement about the suitable time and place for presenting the plans in the neighbourhood. The very different and in part conflicting needs and wishes of the community's elderly population, young families with children and youths will once again present a special challenge to reaching a consensus regarding the plans.

Based on the guidelines of this LSG meeting, the Municipality of Köbanya afterwards organized two forums for the local residents in early June. The first forum was open to all residents, and more than 70 residents turned up. There was a heated debate about the most pressing issues, and a general desire to return to the 'golden age' of the Pongrác housing estate when this place used to be a pleasant and safe neighbourhood. The second forum was organized by the local primary school where the local children (age 6-14) learn. This forum was a very great success; the kids were very active. They were very happy that they have a chance to improve the playgrounds of the Pongrác estate and came up with creative ideas.

#### Resumé

The participation at the three Local Support Group meetings was very inspiring. The young, dynamic team of the city government of Satu Mare drafted a plan for a citywide development strategy. By taking a short cut through the administration, ideas could be directly agreed upon with city leaders.

Especially impressive were the active women in Kaufhaus. They had less interest in talking about problems than in "rolling up their sleeves" and working towards solutions.

In Pongrác, owners of the small flats organized themselves and appointed a speaker for their apartment building. The dynamic discussion between them and the planners, and the agreement as to the further proceedings was impressive.

The cities took on a great responsibility by involving private stakeholders and community residents. At the same time, establishing confidence is a prerequisite for a successful process. The process has to be carried out with openness and transparency, especially in cases where the time span between plan development and implementation is long. Long-term processes of development are difficult for residents to relate to and can lead to the loss of trust in the administration. Continuous feedback and small projects that quickly lead to positive results are necessary.

The participation in the three Local Support Group meetings was a great enriching and learning experience. They provide a good basis for reflecting on the work in Duisburg.

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## GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE

#### THE INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOP-MENT PLAN OF SATU MARE (RO)

The municipality of Satu Mare has been declared by the Romanian Government as one of the 13 urban development poles of Romania through the Decision no. 1149 from September 18, 2008. The municipality was allocated for the plan a total sum of 10,98 million euros through the Regional Operational Programme, axis 1.1. Integrated Urban Development Plans.

The major objective of this axis is to increase the life quality and creation of new work places in the cities, through the rehabilitation of the urban infrastructure and improving of urban services, including the social services, as well as through the development of the structures for supporting businesses and entrepreneurship. Each applicant had to touch through the projects at least two out of the three main components: urban infrastructure, social infrastructure, business support infrastructure.

The work for elaborating the Integrated Urban Development Plan has started with employees from the municipality and also with a consultant company. Also the work with the Local Support Group has been very important in identifying the projects which represent a priority and should be included in the plan. In this sense, there have taken place four meetings with the LSG in the year 2009, at which have participated more than 30 representatives of the institutions member of the LSG and of the local community.

The plan was finalized at the end of March 2010, it includes 7 projects, and has been submitted for financing. The total value of the projects 16 million euros, out of which 10,98 million euros represent non-refundable funds from the European Regional Development Fund through the Regional Operational Programme. The projects included in the Integrated Urban Development Plan are the following:

 Social multifunctional center of the Public Service for Social Assistance Satu Mare – value: 711,827 €, located in a former thermic central heating station;



- Technological, innovation and business center – value: 998,000 €, located in a former school;
- Rehabilitation of the historical and cultural heritage in Satu Mare Municipality –
   North Theatre value: 3,043,734 €;



 Raising the quality of life and ensuring European conditions through the sustainable regeneration of the Solidaritatii residential area in Satu Mare municipality – SOLIDREG – value: 2,970,467 € Improving the quality of the environment and of the urban services in the peripheral area I.L. Caragiale St. in Satu Mare municipality – housing areas and industrial platforms – through the rehabilitation and development of urban infrastructure – value: 2.528.489,80 €;



- Easing the traffic in the central area of Satu Mare municipality through the rehabilitation and development of the urban infrastructure between the passage way above the railway, the Industrial platform for the accession of the north belt – value: 5.477.358,71 €;
- Video surveillance system for the security of the public spaces in Satu Mare municipality – value: 366.406,83 €.

The Integrated Urban Development Plan has already been accepted by the funding authority, and the projects are in the evaluation phase. In the time between the forwarding of the plan and the start of the implementation, the Satu Mare municipality has the intention of continuing the work with the LSG, this time at a bigger scale, at the level of the entire city with a development strategy realized together with the citizens and the interested institutions.

The basis of the future strategy, meaning the description of the current conditions in the neighbourhoods which are going to be delimited, and also the coordination of the entire process will be ensured by a team formed out of employees of the city hall's departments. Future Conferences will take place in each of the delimited areas with all of the interested parties, and they will lead to small strategies at the level of each of the areas. The work will continue with conferences organized at the level of the city, this time on specific topics. Together all of these small strategies will lead to a big development strategy for the entire City of Satu Mare.

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### **EUROPEAN EVENT**

## ANNUAL "REGIONS FOR ECONOMIC CHANGE" CONFERENCE

RegGov Partners represented the network at the annual "Regions for Economic Change" Conference in Brussels



Representatives from the RegGov Partner Cities Duisburg and Satu Mare, Brigitte Grandt and Nicoleta Lasan, respectively, delivered a joint presentation on behalf of the Network at this year's "Regions for Economic Change" conference, "Building Sustainable Growth", which took place 20-21 May in Brussels. They, along with representatives from four other active Fast Track Networks - UNIC (Urban Network for Innovation in Ceramics), HerO (Heritage as Opportunity), Open Cities, and Building Healthy Communities - discussed their experiences and impressions related to the development and implementation of Local Action Plans in the workshop "URBACT II: Improving the Impact of Territorial Cooperation on Local Policies- Networking for Change".

Grandt and Lasan delivered an interesting presentation which received very positive feedback from audience members. The first half of the presentation focused on the important role which a high level of vertical and horizontal cooperation, as well as the great emphasis placed on inter-city networking and information dissemination have played in the successful implementation of Local Action Plans in cities in the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, including Duisburg. The second half of the presentation focused on the goals and challenges of the city of Satu Mare. On the one hand, a need is seen for more active involvement from the Managing Authority, the private sector and other stakeholders; on the other hand, the city has expressed desire to move from focusing on a single target area to a city-wide strategy. In speaking of the success of the network, it was reported that LAPs for five RegGov Partner Cities had recently been submitted for approval, with two more expected to be submitted in the very near future.

The annual "Regions for Economic Change" conference aims to facilitate the discussion of key themes related to European cohesion policy programs, as well as networking and the exchange of good practice among regions throughout the European Union.

Janai Gilmore EG DU Entwicklungsgesellschaft Duisburg mbH

## REGGOV CALENDAR

# **NEWS**

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> National URBACT Days in Wien

The German RegGov Lead Partner, the City of Duisburg, was represented at the "National URBACT Days" in Wien (Austria) by Brigitte Grandt and Martin Linne, head of the urban development department of Duisburg.

After the official opening of the event, Jean-Loup Drubigny, head of the URBACT Secretariat, was at the participants' disposal during a question and answer session. Afterwards, three working sessions dealt with following topics:

- Urban-suburban relations, competitiveness
- Climate change & energy efficiency
- Demographic change & inner city structures



On the second day, the discussion focused on the development of the urban dimension within the European Structural Funds Period 2014+. For that, Alexander Ferstl, representative of the European Commission, presented at first a stimulating introduction for this discussion on the European Structural Funds 2014+, and explained the expectations towards projects and strategies supported by the European Structural Funds in Germany.

The event focused on the situation in Germany and Austria, but also related to the situation in cities and neighbourhoods in other European countries. The conference's only official language was German.

# The third round of cluster meetings – Save the dates!

After consultation of all concerned parties, the dates and locations for the third round of cluster meetings are confirmed. The detailed information for the accordant thematic cluster meetings - for coming together and continuing the work and discussions on the defined topics - are named below:

- Cluster 1 "Regional Co-operation"
   31 Jan/1 Feb 2011 | Halandri (Greece)
- Cluster 2 "Private Sector"
   9/10 Dec 2010 | Södertälje (Sweden)
- Cluster 3 "Integration"15/16 Nov 2010 | Dortmund (Germany)
- Cluster 4 "Monitoring"
   17/18 Jan 2011 | Nijmegen (Netherlands)

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Thematic Seminar – Save the date!

The third Thematic Seminar of the RegGov network will take place from **Sunday**, **October 24 to Wednesday**, **October 27**, **2010**.

The seminar will be held in the city of **Satu Mare** (RO) and the nearby city of **Nyiregyhaza** (HU), and will deal with the topic "Models of good governance and partnership in the implementation of Integrated Neighbourhood Development approaches". Further detailed information will be provided in time.





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