

## *Seminar “Involvement of civil society within cross-border agglomerations”*

**Thursday 11 February 2010, Tournai, Belgium**

The partners of the “EGTC” project (Expertising Governance for Transfrontier Conurbations)<sup>1</sup>, co-financed by the URBACT II programme, aim to exchange on methods and tools to improve the governance of their cross-border conurbations, including the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation instrument. After having discussed internal governance issues during a first seminar in March 2009 in Chaves (Portugal), they will discuss in Lille the means to involve civil society within cross-border conurbations.

Today, **more than a third of the European citizens live in border areas.**

The integration process of the EU has facilitated the emergence of functional urban areas cross-cutting state borders, i.e. cross-border conurbations, which face specific challenges related to the management of **cross-border flows** (goods, capital, information and workers), leading to **specific problems** and new **potentialities** of development.

The appropriate response to such challenges lay down on the development of new systems of governance aiming to conduct policies at a cross-border scale.

With the **absence of a cross-border elected government**, such governance systems, seeking **effectiveness**, must also take into consideration the requirements of **transparency and legitimacy**, particularly by promoting strategies favoring the **involvement of civil society**.

Indeed, the risk of a gap between citizens belonging to different national democracies, the public authorities involved in the cross-border co-operation and the governance structure is present.

The seminar will enable the participants to discuss key issues common to all cross-border conurbations in Europe:

- How can public authorities promote a popular mobilisation in cross-border conurbations? (cf. workshop 1).
- How can media be used to facilitate a greater visibility and a common identity for cross-border conurbations? (cf. workshop 2).
- Which are the possible levels of participative democracy to be developed at a cross-border scale? (cf. roundtable).

This seminar will enable the participants to exchange experiences, present good practices, debate on the feasibility and the transferability of urban public policies favouring a greater sense of community at a cross-border scale and deliver common conclusions.

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<sup>1</sup> Eurometropole Lille-Kortrijk-Tournai (France/Belgium), Francfort (O)/Slubice conurbation (Germany/Poland), Eurocidade Chaves-Verín (Portugal/Spain), Ister-Granum EGTC (Hungary/Slovakia), Eurodistrict Strasbourg-Ortenau (France/Germany), and Trinational Eurodistrict Basel (Switzerland/Germany/France).

## AGENDA

- 8:30-9:00** Registration
- 9:00-9:30** Welcome and introduction  
*Elected representative, Lille Métropole Communauté Urbaine (to be confirmed)*  
*Dr. Hans-Günther Clev, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, Lead Partner*
- 9:30-10:30** **WORKSHOP 1:** Cross-border projects building-up popular mobilisation  
*“Framing the cross-border daily life”*  
Case studies:
- Leisure activities to contribute to a cross-border “Vivre Ensemble”
  - Cross-border services to respond to citizens’ needs
  - Information centre on the cross-border agglomeration
- 10:30-11:00** Coffee break
- 11:00-12:00** **WORKSHOP 2:** Cross-border Media and virtual community  
*“Building-up a cross-border identity”*  
Case studies:
- Emergence of cross-border medias
  - The European cyber democracy in the making
- 12:00-1:30** Lunch
- 2:00-3:30** **SITE VISIT** – Urban regeneration programme in Tournai
- 3:45-5:15** **ROUND TABLE:** Face to face participative democracy in cross-border agglomerations  
*“Involving civil society in cross-border public policies”*
- 5:15-5:30** Closing session