

TRANSNATIONAL NEWSLETTER NO. 1



**LEIPZIG
GRAZ
TORINO
WROCLAW
PRAGUE 9**

Editorial

Within our globalised society the pressure of economic competition is on the increase. The organisation of infrastructure and transport as well as the development of residential and commercial areas are challenges which are increasingly difficult for many cities and municipalities to master on their own. It is the aim of the

CENTRAL EUROPE project City Regions to promote cooperation between core cities and their surrounding municipalities. In five regional pilot projects the partner cities and regions are testing methods of cooperation to develop existing partnerships further. The aim is to create durable governance structures and recommenda-

tions for further action. These will also include the positioning of city regions within European strategies.

This newsletter presents the progress achieved in the project at mid-term stage. For further information, more details on the project and its partnership and documents please take a look at:

www.city-regions.de

SAVE THE DATE!

Final conference of City Regions on 24 September 2014 in Dresden

The concluding conference of the City Regions project will take place on 24 September 2014 in Dresden. It will be organised as International Expert Conference and focus on the positioning of urban regions in European strategies. Topics for discussion will be the future of urban-rural partnerships against the background

of the EU urban agenda, possibilities for European and regional funding in the 2014-2020 period with regard to peri-urban cooperation and benefits of functional cooperation in different scales.

The conference, which is hosted by the Saxon State Ministry of the Interior, will summarise as well the work

of the Transnational Expert Group established by the partnership in 2013. The experts support the work done in regional pilots and discuss possible motivations and benefits of more intensified macro-regional coordination in Central Europe.



STAATSMINISTERIUM
DES INNEREN



Partner workshop on 26 – 27 March 2014 in Torino

On 26-27 March 2014 the partners of City Regions met for the fourth Transnational Partner Workshop in **TORINO**. Topics of the meeting were the review of regional pilots, in particular with regard to governance challenges, and the discussion on the positioning of urban regions in European strategies. Funding possibilities for urban-rural partnerships in the 2014-2020 period in the participating urban regions were analysed,

and findings of previous research on macro-regional strategies as tools for enhanced cooperation in large-scale functional areas discussed.

After the workshop the partners visited revitalised brownfields in the city area, with the highlights of the Lingotto area and the so-called "Spine", the former railway axis through the city centre which is being transformed as urban development area.



Stakeholder meetings in the Wrocław and Graz urban regions

In the **WROCLAW** urban region a park & ride strategy is being developed at the regional level for implementation at the municipal level. Additionally a strategy is also being developed for the metropolitan region's green spaces and leisure areas in order to protect them against urban sprawl and to conserve their natural and recreational character. First analytical studies are already available, and during meetings on 28 November 2013

and on 13 December 2013 in Wrocław the pilot leader, the Institute for Territorial Development (www.irt.wroc.pl), launched inaugurated the process of exchange and consultation with stakeholders.

In the **GRAZ** urban region the city of Graz and intermunicipal associations involving a total of 16 municipalities in the surrounding region discuss a strategy to make recreational areas

more accessible by environmentally friendly means of transport. A study on the possibilities to improve the system of public transport is being prepared, and possible approaches towards more gentle mobility in the countryside are being discussed with local stakeholders. The first meeting took place on 23 January 2014 in the municipality of Unterpremstätten.

Study on pre-school education in the Wrocław urban area

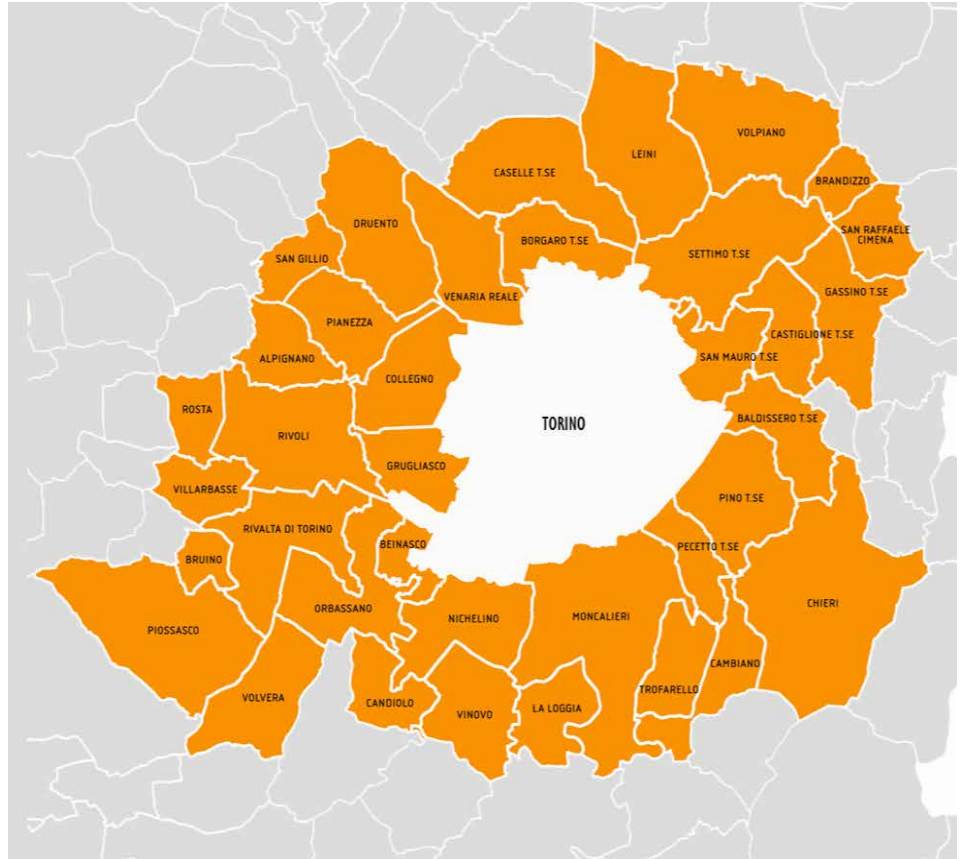
A balanced, comprehensive network of kindergartens is to be established in the city of Wrocław and its surrounding municipalities. To identify the demand and to investigate options for future action a comprehensive study has been prepared, which will help the stakeholders to discuss pos-

sibilities for increased cooperation, and thus more efficient public service. For this purpose a specialised working group has been created, which might have the chance to be continued in the framework of the emerging Association of Municipalities and Districts of the Wrocław Agglomeration.



Workshop on functional cooperation on 14 March 2014 in Torino

Turin has successfully managed the transition from a post-industrial city to a cultural metropolis. Today the city and its surrounding region are struggling to deal with the financial crisis, cuts in public subsidies and new administrative legislation. In future more than 300 municipalities ranging from the Alps to the Po Valley will become part of the metropolitan region. As a result 38 municipalities are now cooperating with the aim of agreeing an innovative planning strategy which will offer greater possibilities for shared decision-making. On 14 March 2014 a workshop with more than 100 participants was held at the Torino Politechnical University to discuss the perspectives of functional cooperation at different levels and scales, from the city level to the macro-regional perspective of the Alpine Region.



Regional workshops on commercial land use management in the Halle/Leipzig region

In order to remain competitive the cities of Halle (Saale) and Leipzig have been working together with the surrounding municipalities since several years for the purpose of developing and marketing of commercial areas. In 2010 a joint declaration has been signed, which is currently being discussed and evaluated. During regional workshops on 15 October 2013 in Braunsbedra and on 8 April 2014 in Böhlen-Lippendorf future direc-

tions and topics of cooperation were discussed, and the stakeholders exchanged information on current developments.

A particular topic of discussion were the expectations towards the European Metropolitan Region of Central Germany, which was created in March 2013 as result of a merger of previous public and private networks and institutions.



Transport master plan for the Prague 9 district

More and more cars on the road and delays in developing the local infrastructure are leading to traffic jams and delays to buses and trams in the Prague 9 city district. The number of passengers using public transport is stagnating, and there is an insufficient network of cycle lanes and footpaths.

To prepare the implementation of improvements, a transport master plan has been elaborated and is discussed

with stakeholders. But to solve the problems there is the need to establish close cooperation between the district of Prague 9 with organisations and entities engaged in the long-term solution of traffic issues in the Capital City of Prague. Cooperation and mutual awareness need also to be established in the direction of neighboring districts, villages and towns located in the agglomeration zone.



CENTRAL EUROPE Annual Conference 2014

Mark your calendars to join the Annual Conference of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme on 1-2 July 2014 in Vienna City Hall (Austria). The conference will introduce future funding priorities and possibilities in CENTRAL EUROPE and discuss these with key experts and policy makers from the regional, national, and European level.

124 transnational projects implemented since 2007 will in addition be presented providing a bridge to the upcoming priorities of the CENTRAL EUROPE 2014-2020 Programme. Last but not least, the conference will function as the project ideas fair related to the first call for proposals, which is expected to open before end of this year.

The conference is targeted at public and private stakeholders interested in either achievements of territorial cooperation in central Europe or in working with partners beyond national borders on innovation, low-carbon economy, the environment and culture or transport. More information: www.central2013.eu

City of Leipzig
 Department of Urban Planning
 Reinhard Wölpert, Peggy Sacher
 Martin-Luther-Ring 4-6
 04092 Leipzig
 Germany

Phone | +49 (341) 123 48 92
 E-Mail | peggy.sacher@leipzig.de

Photographs | Fotolia.com, © F. Seidel, © manuelbischof, © QQ7, © Marco Saracco, © ottoflick, Halle/Leipzig: © Henry Pfeifer, Partner workshop: © Francofranco56

This project is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

www.city-regions.eu

IMPRINT

May 2014