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Editorial

Mattia Crosetto

Dear readers,

As we are resuming you in our page for the "Short news from Brussels", in the next days we will be hosting a meeting with some Regions of the Baltic Adriatic Corridor Initiative in order to verify the possibility of presenting a candidature for the Open Days 2010. The idea is to use the opportunity offered by the European Week of Regions and Cities to promote this important project and strengthen around it the cooperation with the EU Institutions.

The meeting will be also useful to define the contents of what could be the common event at the Open Days.

We have proposed – just to stimulate the discussion – that the Regions promoting the workshop – representing all the members of the BAC partnership – could introduce the example of the BAC Initiative to open a debate about macro-regional cooperation in large transport infrastructure projects.

Speakers from interested parties could thus analyse the possible contributions that the Regions can provide to the definition of the future generation of the Trans-European Networks as well as of the European freight corridors or the Highways of the Sea. Issues such as the efficient combination of Structural, national and local funds will be also treated. After the panel interventions, the program includes a question-time open to all participants.

Naturally, this is simply an option among others and potential partners will come with their ideas and suggestions.

What is important in our opinion is that we can succeed in promoting the BAC initiative, its partner regions and its results with the view of strengthening the cooperation with the EU Institutions and support the inclusion of the Corridor in future TEN-T schemes.

We will see if this initiative will be possible or if other cooperative solutions could be more effective.

Sincerely,

Mattia Crosetto
The Head of Office
Zlin Region in Brussels

Major Cities Initiate Cooperation for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership



On 21st January 2010 at the inaugural session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) in Barcelona today, mayors of major cities from the European Union and the Mediterranean partner countries have joined forces to energise the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The mayors are determined to go beyond existing traditional diplomatic relations by launching concrete cooperation programmes on issues such as immigration, climate change, urban development or cultural exchange. Closeness to citizens, efficiency in project management and tackling real life issues will be at the heart of this cooperation, which should underpin the institutional framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Union.

"The Committee of the Regions (CoR), as the driving force behind the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly, will ensure that the political dynamic created in Barcelona will continue and transform into concrete cooperation on the ground," CoR President **Luc Van den Brande** stressed. "The aim of ARLEM is to activate the regional and local representatives of the three shores of the Mediterranean so that they launch common decentralised cooperation projects of, share best practices, foster mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue and develop new creative twinning," the President added.

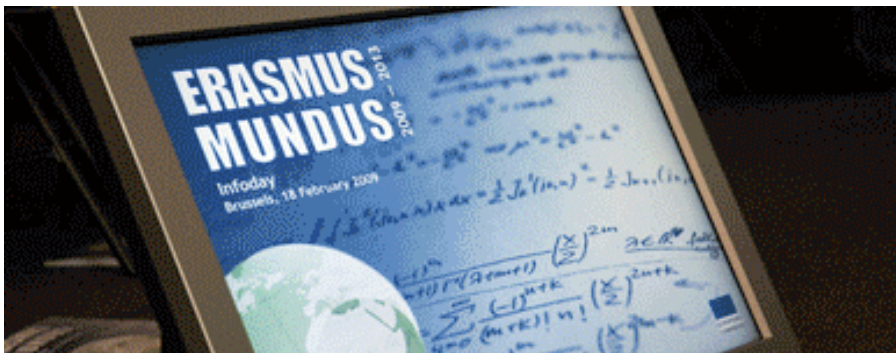
Addressing the press at Pedralbes Palace in **Barcelona**, the city's mayor **Jordi Hereu I Boher**, underlined his pride at hosting the inaugural session of ARLEM. "Barcelona's vocation to be the capital of this Euro-Mediterranean area means that we support any initiative to strengthen political relations within the Euro-Mediterranean region. It has been obvious from the beginning that the Mediterranean Union is not only a matter for states. Regions, cities, and civil society are necessary in the process of creating this Union. As the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly, ARLEM is a wonderful tool to build this necessary Union, between Europe and the Mediterranean partner countries."

The mayor of Stuttgart, **Germany**, **Wolfgang Schuster** underlined the close relations and the interdependence which exist between northern European regions and the Mediterranean. "In Stuttgart we have about 100,000 people who hail originally from the Mediterranean region. This is why I feel that I am also the mayor of a Mediterranean city, and I am very glad to say that our culture in central Europe has been very much influenced by the cultural heritage of the Mediterranean region. For many years now we have established particularly close and fruitful cooperation with our partner cities, Menzel Bourguiba in **Tunisia** and Cairo in **Egypt**, with whom we implement common projects on urban planning, waste management, environmental policy or youth exchange programmes." **Ahmed Hamza**, President of the urban community of Nouakchott, **Mauretania**, hopes that ARLEM will lead to greater decentralisation in the Mediterranean region. "We are very happy to be in Barcelona to participate in the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly. We sincerely hope that this new tool will help us to push for more decentralisation in our countries and to increase the cooperation between our regions and cities by better twinning and the exchange of good practices. "ARLEM will surely contribute to this and to a good integration of the North and the South."

For **Hamid Chabat**, the mayor of Fez, **Morocco**, the launch of ARLEM creates new perspectives and a new quality of political dialogue. "For many years, Fez has been working on concrete projects with cities in **Italy, France and Spain**, and in particular with Barcelona with whom we have established a joint digital media library for our citizens. This is a pilot project for cultural exchange and mutual understanding which is definitely best practice for the region."

The mayor of Haifa (**Israel**), **Yona Yahav**, also underlined the need for inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue, and praised the multicultural model character of his city as a best practice for reconciliation in the Mediterranean region. "The city of Haifa, a prosperous port city and a vibrant cultural hub, brings together Jews and Arabs and makes room for religious diversity. The Bahai centre in Haifa has already been recognised by UNESCO as a world heritage site. We hope that initiatives such as ARLEM will facilitate further cooperation between Israeli local authorities, including Haifa, and their partner authorities in the Euro-Mediterranean region. We appeal to the newly formed organisation to avoid letting political divisions jeopardize its goal of greater cooperation. If it can do that, then ARLEM is sure to succeed. By doing so ARLEM will assure the achievement of its goals."

ARLEM, a joint project of the Committee of the Regions, regional and local authorities around the three shores of the Mediterranean, and European and international associations representing regional and local authorities working on the ground, will facilitate the establishment of contacts, good practice sharing between cities and regions and the promotion of inter-municipal and inter-regional cooperation.



ERASMUS MUNDUS PROGRAM INFO DAY 2010

Monitoring the Activities of the European Commission: Launch of the Educational Programme "Erasmus", edition 2010

On the 22nd of January 2010, the Zlín region in Brussels was present to the Erasmus Mundus (EM) Info Day 2010. The event provided detailed information on the Call for proposals 2010, based on experiences within the previous editions of Erasmus Mundus 2004-2008. Speakers of the EC explained the application process and presented the related documents, giving tips and advices on how to prepare a successful project proposal.

The programme of the Infoday consisted of 6 sessions, out of which the 1st and 2nd provided a general view of Erasmus Mundus 2010, while the remaining referred to the specific Actions composing the program. All sessions were organised in the form of presentation with video contributions. All records from the event are available on the EACEA website, and interested parties can find them at:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/events/infoday_2010_en.php.

The Infoday also provided a possibility for partner search. A selection of potential candidates is also available online on the above mentioned link. The EC has also uploaded a series of frequently asked questions and answers.

Resume of the key information about Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013:

The Programme

The Erasmus Mundus Programme's overall aim is to promote European higher education, to help improve and enhance the career prospects of students and to promote intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries, in accordance with EU external policy objectives in order to contribute to the sustainable development of third countries in the field of higher education. Currently the programme consists of 3 actions: Action 1: Joint Programmes including scholarships; Action 2: Partnerships with Third Country higher education institutions and scholarships for mobility and Action 3: Promotion of European higher education.

Action 1

Joint Programs including scholarship

This action that aims at fostering cooperation between higher education institutions and academic staff in Europe and third countries with a view to create poles of excellence and provide highly trained human resources is composed of two sub-actions:

- Action 1A — Erasmus Mundus Master Courses (EMMCs) and
- Action 1B — Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates (EMJDs)

whose aim is to support postgraduate programmes of outstanding academic quality, jointly developed by consortia of European and, where relevant, third-country universities and that could contribute to increased visibility and attractiveness of the European higher education sector. Such joint programs must involve mobility between the consortia universities and lead to the award of recognised joint, double or multiple degrees.

Action 2

Partnerships with Third Country higher education institutions and scholarships for mobility

This action aims at fostering structured cooperation between European and third-country higher education institutions through the promotion of mobility at all level of studies for students (undergraduate and masters), doctoral candidates, researchers, academic and administrative staff.

Action 3 Promotion of European higher education

This Action aims at promoting European higher education through measures enhancing the attractiveness, profile, image and visibility of, and accessibility to, European higher education in the world and provides support to transnational initiatives, studies, projects, events and other activities related to the international dimension of all aspects of higher education, such as promotion, accessibility, quality assurance, credit recognition, recognition of European qualifications abroad and mutual recognition of qualifications with third countries, curriculum development, mobility, quality of services, etc.

Action 3 activities may take various forms (conferences, seminars, workshops, studies, analyses, pilot projects, prizes, international networks, production of material for publication, development of information, communication and technology tools) and may take place anywhere in the world.

Erasmus Mundus 2009-13 How to apply?

The authority responsible for the management of the Program is the Education, Culture and Audiovisual Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission.

The Agency is responsible for managing the entire life cycle of the project, including the publication of the calls, the evaluation of the proposals, the signature of the contracts and the monitoring of the projects.

Thus all individual proposals have to be addressed to the EACEA.

The deadline for the submission of applications under all three Actions is 30 April 2010.

The selection of suitable candidatures is set in July 2010.

The Programme Guide provides all the necessary information on the application conditions and criteria corresponding to each of the 3 Programme Actions. Call for Proposals is published to specify the activities, the application criteria and the budgetary allocations.

Higher education institutions and organizations active in the field of higher education have to apply centrally to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in accordance with the application conditions and timetable defined in the Programme Guide and the Call for Proposals. Documents for applicants under all 3 actions including the annexes are published on EACEA website under the section Fundings & scholarships - Higher Education institutions and other bodies. Please note that applications under action 1 will need to be made in an electronic form that will be available nearer the deadline. In the meantime, there is a pdf version.

There must be one co-coordinating/applicant institution that submits the application on behalf of the consortium/partnership/network of participating organizations.

Applicants must be located in an eligible applicant country as defined in the Programme Guide.

For general information and enquiries about the Erasmus Mundus programme, please contact the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency or visit the website.

Avenue du Bourget 1 (BOUR 02/31)
B - 1140 Brussels Belgium
Fax: +32-2-292.13.28
e-mail: EACEA-Erasmus-Mundus@ec.europa.eu
Website: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu>

For information and guidance at national level please contact the National Agency for European Educational Programmes (NAEP) or visit the website.

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Regional Governments in the EU Decision-Making Process

Following the conference "Parliaments in the European Decision-Making Process", that took place in Bologna in September 2009, representatives of the Emilia-Romagna Region in Brussels launched a new discussion on the role of regional governments in the EU decision-making process. The seminar was organized on 26th of January 2010, and the Zlin Region in Brussels was present to follow the works.

The focus of the event was put on the procedures of negotiation between local and regional authorities on one side and the Council of the EU, on the other.

Actually, as a result of the new Lisbon Treaty, the European Regions have gained a greater role within the EU, both politically and institutionally.

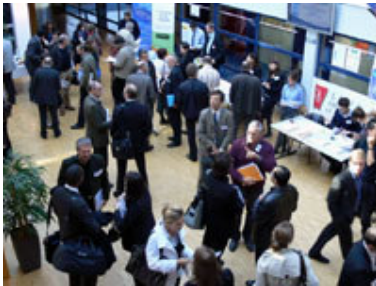
This is the reason why, in order to apply the Treaty, European institutions, national governments and regional governments with legislative power will share their respective experiences and explore new tools of participation in the negotiations of the Council for a better representation and stronger interaction among the different levels of governments. The rationale is to improve the role of regions in the European Multilevel Governance, thus contributing to enhance the participation of the regions in the integration process of the EU.

The Committee of the Regions met the Regional Offices

On 18th January 2010, the Zlin Region in Brussels attended the information session that the Committee of the Regions organized to present its action programme for 2010.

On the occasion, the Event and Communication Unit of the CoR illustrated its renewed approach for making the CoR as the EU institutional venue for Regions and their partners. Main items in CoR's agenda for 2010 will be the future of the Cohesion Policy, the fight to climate change and the recovery of Regions out of the present financial crisis.

The main appointments in the working agenda are:



Spring 2010: the Covenant of Mayors' annual event

13 April 2010: Forum on macro-regions

8 June 2010: Forum on Social innovation at local/regional level

4-7 October 2010: Open Days 2010

13-14 October 2010: Communicating Europe event

30/1 November/December 2010: Forum on the cooperation for developing countries

For what it concerns the promotional events organized by the Committee, the next appointment is the "Open Doors Day", attracting usually more than 6000 visitors for the tourism and cultural publicity of the Regions at EU level.

Regional offices are invited to provide a contribution to all those events by suggesting speakers, projects, publications and other ideas.

Other initiatives will be also taken upon individual initiative of the Regions.

Open Days 2010: initiative of the Zlin Region in Brussels

On the 2nd of February 2010, the Zlin Region in Brussels will host at the Rose House a meeting of partners potentially interested in creating a partnership for the Open Days 2010 relating to the "Baltic-Adriatic Corridor Initiative".

The idea is to present the cooperation already established among the 14 Regions as a positive example that could be duplicated by other Regions, as well as to discuss with the European Institutions how the Baltic Adriatic Corridor cooperation could be further strengthen in the perspective of the realization of such a strategic transport axe between Gdansk and the northern Adriatic.

Participating Regions will include Pomorskie, Lodz and Silesia from Poland, Trencin from the Slovak Republic, Carinthia from Austria and Friuli Venezia Giulia from Italy. On the occasion of the meeting issues such as the composition and structure of the partnership and contents of the joint event of the Open Days 2010 will be discussed and possibly approved.

Calls for proposals

Civil Society	Civil Protection Financial Instrument – Preparedness & Prevention Deadline: 31.03.2010 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:311:0024:0024:EN:PDF
Civil Society	European Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors Deadline: 12.03.2010 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:311:0021:0023:EN:PDF
Civil Society	Europe for Citizens Program (call 2009) Active Citizens for Europe; Active Civil Society; Active Europe Remembrance Deadline: Various http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:323:0042:0044:EN:PDF
Civil Society	Youth in Action Programme Deadline: Various http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:315:0003:0007:EN:PDF2
Education	LifeLong Learning Program – General Call for 2010 Deadline: Various http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:247:0013:0015:EN:PDF
Education	Erasmus Mundus II – Joint programs & partnerships Deadline: Various http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:294:0018:0024:EN:PDF
Research	Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) Deadline: 26.03.2010 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:021:0038:0039:EN:PDF
Innovation	ICT section of the Competitiveness and Innovation Program Information and Communication Technologies Deadline: 01. 06. 2010 http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp
Healthcare	Second Program of Community Action in the field of Health Deadline: 12. 03. 2010 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:313:0016:0016:EN:PDF



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CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

02. 02 2010

Zlin Region in Brussels
Organisational meeting for
Open Days 2010
Regions of the BAC Initiative
Rose House
Brussels

02. 02. 2010

Conference on EU Danube
Strategy and macro-regional
cooperation
Ulm, Germany

09-10. 02. 2010

Committee of the Regions
83rd Plenary Session
European Parliament
Brussels, Belgium

22. 02. 2010

Committee of the Regions
Open Days 2010
Deadline for candidatures
Communication Unit
Brussels, Belgium

Vacancies in Europe

European Investment Bank

• Jessica task force - Urban Development Specialists

Vacancy notice: JE09WWW04

Contract agents

Place of work: Luxembourg

Deadline: 28. 02. 2010

Info: <http://www.eib.org/>

European Investment Bank

• Secretary / Assistants

Vacancy notice: RH10WWW01

Contract agents

Place of work: Luxembourg

Deadline: open

Info: <http://www.eib.org/>

European Investment Bank

• Trainee for operations outside the EU

Vacancy notice: IN10WWW09

Intern

Place of work: Third Countries outside the EU

Deadline: 11. 02. 2010

Info: <http://www.eib.org/>



Year 7, no.02
January 2010

Form closed:
01. 02. 2010

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