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Editorial

Mattia Crosetto

Dear readers,

On the 12th of March 2010, the Committee of the Regions announced the results of the selection procedure for the Open Days 2010.

I am glad to say that the partnership led by the Zlín Region in Brussels has been accepted and will be thus participating to the Week of Regions and Cities, the most important event relating to regional policies and territorial cooperation that occurs at European level.

A record number of 28 partnerships will be involved in the organization of the event for 2010, witnessing the increasing success of the Open Days and their central role in promoting the regional dimension of the European Union. To show the evolution in time, it is enough to remember that the teams participating to previous editions were 16 in 2005, 22 in 2008, 24 in 2006 and 2009.

A total number of 237 regions and cities from all over Europe has been selected this year, with Italy and UK at the top of the list (29 and 24 partners respectively). Czech Republic will be represented by four entities, including Prague, Usti Region and Central Bohemia Region. This year, the Zlín Region is the only Czech team leader.

However, for the Zlín Region and its partners within the team "Baltic Adriatic Corridor Regions" what is important is not simply the statistic dimension of the Open Days, but the fact that the event will provide us the opportunity to highlight the importance of strengthening the transport infrastructure network central Europe.

Together with other initiatives we are launching in the present period, the Open Days will thus help us lobbying the EU Institutions for investing funds in major transport projects, not only for the railway sector, but also for the regional airport or the highway sector.

Now that our candidature for the Open Days has been accepted, we will start working on the detailed program of future common events.

Sincerely,

Mattia Crosetto
The Head of Office
Zlín Region in Brussels

Zlín Region in Brussels organised the presentation of Covenant of Mayors and EIB ELENA Facility for Czech and Slovak Regions in Brussels

The global fight against climate change is a top priority for the EU and local actors can profit of several initiatives for realising projects in the field of energy saving and energy efficacy. The Zlín Region in Brussels organised an event to explain how.

On the 2nd of March 2010, the Zlín Region in Brussels has hosted at the city Regus conference centre a meeting with the Covenant of Mayors and the participation of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in videoconference from Luxembourg.

The event, the fifth of a series that is involving all EU Regions, was the unique targeting specifically the Czech and Slovak Regions.

Participants, including Mr. Doubrava from EC DG Energy, discussed contents and modalities of membership within the Covenant of Mayors as well as the potential advantages for local administrations in getting involved.

The EIB introduced the recent ELENA Facility that provides funds - up to 90% of eligible costs - connected to public investments in energy saving and energy efficiency. This technical support may be of different types, for instance: feasibility and market studies, structuring of programs, business plans, energy audits, preparation of tendering procedures and contractual arrangements and project implementation units. Actually, the ELENA facility, created in partnership between the European Commission and the EIB, ensures that municipalities and regions in Europe have access to financial specialists and technical experts to realize efficient investment programs in energy efficiency and renewable technologies. Those projects will contribute to fighting climate change and to the creation of much-needed new job for local companies and service providers.

Presentations have been followed by a debate and an exchange of information among participants.

For more information about the EIB and the ELENA Facility, see:
http://www.eib.org/products/technical_assistance/elena/index.htm

Covenant of Mayors: a tool to fight locally against global climate change



The Covenant of Mayors is an EU initiative launched by the European Commission in 2008 which aims at reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a formal commitment by the cities.

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) has given its full political support to the Covenant of Mayors and in 2009, the CoR convinced the European Commission to open the Covenant also for regional authorities, who can now sign up as associate signatories.

More than 1000 signatories makes the Covenant of Mayors more than a declaration of intent.

Already over a [thousand of signatory cities](#) of the Covenant of Mayors, including 20 capitals, 4 regions and 20 provinces, have committed to go beyond the EU objectives to reduce CO₂ gas emissions by 20% by 2020 through the implementation of local sustainable energy action plans.

The Covenant of Mayors gives the lead to Europe's pioneering cities to mitigate climate change through the implementation of intelligent local sustainable energy policies that create stable local jobs and increase citizens' quality of life as well as addressing crucial social issues.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTION PLANS

The local governments signing up to the Covenant of Mayors commit to submit their Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) within the year following adhesion. The Sustainable Energy Action Plan is a key document that shows how the local government will reach its CO₂ reduction target by 2020.

Since the Covenant's commitments concern the whole geographical area of the city/town, the SEAP should include actions concerning both the public and private sectors.

In principle, it is anticipated that most SEAPs will include actions in the following sectors:

- Built environment, including new buildings and major refurbishment
- Municipal infrastructure (district heating, public lighting, smart grids, etc)
- Land use and urban planning
- Decentralised renewable energy sources
- Public and private transport policies and urban mobility
- Citizen and, in general, civil society participation
- Intelligent energy behaviour by citizens, consumers and businesses

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

The European Commission has committed unilaterally to recognising cities involved in the Covenant and provide for their public visibility. The Commission has implemented and funded the Covenant of Mayors Office, which provides technical and promotional support, including implementation of evaluation and monitoring tools, mechanisms to facilitate sharing of know-how between territories and tools to facilitate replication and multiplication of successful measures.

The Commission is committed as well to providing guidelines and benchmark examples for possible implementation and to link to existing activities and networks that support the role of local government in the field of climate protection.

The European Commission [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#) will take on these tasks, in close collaboration with the Covenant's Office. The Commission also invites other actors to become involved in the Covenant of Mayors as Supporting Structures and Benchmarks of Excellence.

FUNDING

While Covenant Signatories have voluntarily committed to go beyond the EU's CO₂ emissions target of 20% reduction by 2020, the European Commission is adapting or creating specific financial mechanisms to help local authorities fulfil their commitments.

For example EIB ELENA (European Local Energy Assistance) Facility, which is a financial instrument of the European Investment Bank which provides non-refundable grants to Municipalities and Regions for technical assistance relating to investment projects in energy saving, energy efficiency, renewable energies, and sustainable urban transport.

HOW TO JOIN?

1. The Covenant of Mayors initiative is presented to the city council or equivalent decision-making body.
2. The city council formally adopts the Covenant of Mayors and mandates the mayor (or other representative of the city council) to sign the [adhesion form](#).
3. The city council informs the Commission about its decision by sending a message to the [Covenant of Mayors Office mailbox](#).
4. The city council receives a confirmation by e-mail with information about the next steps.

What does the Covenant of Mayors involve for signatory cities and regions?

- To accept **to report and be monitored** on their implementation of their action plans;
- To accept **termination of their involvement** in the Covenant in case of **non-compliance**;
- To commit to allocating sufficient **human resources** to the tasks, **mobilising society** in their geographical areas to take part in implementation of the action plan, including organisation of local energy days, and networking with other cities.

For more information about the Covenant of Mayors, see: www.eumayors.eu or contact the Representative Office of the Zlin Region in Brussels at info@zlinregioninbrussels.eu



The Europe 2020 Strategy needs local and regional authorities if it is to fully achieve its goals

05.03.2010 - The Committee of the Regions welcomes the objectives and the form of governance outlined in the Europe 2020 Strategy but stresses that its effectiveness will be limited if local and regional authorities only play an implementing role downstream of the decision-making process.

Speaking after the adoption by the Commission of its Communication on "Europe 2020, A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth", Mrs. Mercedes Bresso, the new President of the Committee of the Regions, noted

that the strategy was more realistic than the proposal set out in the consultation document on which the Committee had expressed its [views at the end of 2009](#), as it "finally gets to grips with the crisis which is hitting our businesses, citizens and regions". She added that "we should be pleased that *Europe 2020* is first putting forward a strategy for overcoming the crisis, followed by guidelines for the future, by building on rather than breaking with the European social model".

Nonetheless, the CoR President regretted that *Europe 2020* had not really learned the lessons from the failure of the Lisbon Strategy. "The Europe 2020 Strategy does not go far enough in mobilising the driving forces of our society, and it would be much more effective if it enabled local and regional authorities to take an active part in framing national reform programmes and flagship initiatives rather than simply being limited to implementing them", stressed Ms Bresso. Even more seriously, added Ms Bresso, the strategy currently stopped at national level, and failed to take account of the fact that, in many countries, it was the regions who were the main players in the field of economic policy: support for innovation and small and medium-sized enterprises, lifelong learning, employment training schemes, etc. "This is rather disappointing" said Ms Bresso.

The CoR also criticised a lack of specific measures for implementing territorial cohesion: "We cannot let this type of opportunity pass us by at a time when the Lisbon Treaty has just come into force," stressed Ms Bresso. She added that the CoR would do everything in its power to ensure that the "inclusive growth" objective became a reality and that it would put forward its own proposals for a flagship initiative bringing together the territorial dimension and social cohesion, for instance on the quality and accessibility of public services.



Europe 2020 – the CoR calls on European regions and cities to join in the debate

10.03.2010 - "Your voice on Europe 2020" - Today, the CoR launches a Europe-wide consultation, targeted at local and regional authorities, about the proposed Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The results gathered through this exercise will feed into the proposals which CoR President Mercedes Bresso will personally present to the President of the European Commission and the EU Presidency.

Last week, Mercedes Bresso already voiced her concerns that the EU2020 strategy does not go far enough in mobilising all the driving forces in EU Member states. She particularly underlined that the strategy would be much more effective if it enabled local and regional authorities to take an active part in framing national reform programmes and flagship initiatives, rather than simply being limited to implementing them downstream of the decision-making process. The CoR is convinced that Europe 2020 needs cities and regions if it is to fully achieve its goals.

The consultation questionnaire highlights important issues which are especially relevant to local and regional authorities, and which still remain unanswered in the strategy. These include, questions about the need for differentiated targets at the territorial level; the need for indicators going beyond GDP; the actual role of local and regional authorities in the design and implementation of the new strategy; the relationships between Europe 2020, cohesion policy and the EU budget and; the need to communicate the new strategy to all EU citizens.

The deadline for applications is 12th April. Contributions can be sent in any EU language. More information available online: <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/>

Promoting entrepreneurship in Schools

On 2nd of March 2010, a representative of the Zlín Region in Brussels attended the seminar entitled "How do we promote entrepreneurship in Schools?", which took place in Sweden House.

The municipality of Söderhamn in the Central Sweden region organized the event to showcase its project for the promotion of entrepreneurship in schools.

In the frame of the Lisbon strategy, which points out the need for creativity, sense of initiative and entrepreneurship, Söderhamn has developed two concept-projects: Driving force and School/Enterprise. Both concepts aim to stimulating students' inner motivations and their level of individual leadership, jointly with the strengthening of pupils' self-trust by increasing their influence over education. The project reports show that 25% of students who went through the programme have launched their own business within the age of 30.

This is an interesting example of an educational experience that could be duplicated also in other regions and countries.

For more information contact: projektkontoret@soderhamn.se

CzechReg Meeting

On the 10th of March 2010, the Representative Office of the Zlín Region to the EU participated to the first meeting of the Czech Regions in Brussels for the new year.

One of the main topics on the agenda included a discussion on the new situation for renting spaces at the Czech House in connection with present and future occupations of the Czech Regional Representation Offices.

The meeting continued with a debate on Czech Street Party IV, which consisted of confirmation of the official partners, agreement on binding date of the party, attitudes of the regions towards the involvement and other organizational issues. Following partners confirmed their participation on the Czech Street Party IV: CZELO, CzechTourism, Pardubice Region, Prague Region, South Moravia Region, Vysočina Region (not officially) and Moravian-Silesian Region.

As the 3rd issue on the programme, Petra Janošková, representative of the Zlín Region in Brussels presented an idea of common participation of the Czech regions to the EU Danube Strategy. Consequently the representatives of Czech Regions challenged Petra Janošková and Karolína Brennerová from Pardubice Region in Brussels to develop a draft opinion, which would express regional interests in framework of public consultation of Danube Strategy.

Partner search: Leonardo da Vinci - Transfer of Innovation Project Proposal

The municipality of Linköping, Sweden, are looking for a third partner to a Leonardo da Vinci project where they want to share existing and develop new approaches to supporting workplace learning in sectors where the workforce is characterised by high levels of part time employment and staff turnover. The sector faces challenges which include first of all increasing workforce diversity, gender diversity, the needs of a diverse client base and higher standards now required by clients and regulatory bodies. The model should respond to current and anticipated skills needs, it should support learning in the workplace and the application of new skills to work and provide individuals with progression routes. It aims to work with all stakeholders to embed the new models at regional, sectoral and/or national level.

For more information about participation and project period: mats.ericsson@linkoping.se

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

Civil Protection – Exercises, Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Deadline: **30. 04. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:060:0014:0014:EN:PDF>

Civil Society

Multiannual Program for the Protection of Children using Internet

Deadline: **27. 05. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:048:0007:0012:EN:PDF>

Education

EU-US Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Training

Deadline: **6. 4. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:323:0042:0044:EN:PDF>

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:CS:PDF>

InnovationICT section of the Competitiveness and Innovation Program
Information and Communication TechnologiesDeadline: **01. 06. 2010**http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp



Zlín Region in Brussels

The Rose House

46, Boulevard de la Cambre – B1000 Bruxelles

Tel. (32) 2 641.17.60 – Fax (32) 2 641.17.69

email: info@zlinregioninbrussels.eu

www.zlinregioninbrussels.eu

CALENDAR

MARCH

18. 03. 2010

Baltic Adriatic Corridor
Partner meeting
Styria Office
Brussels, Belgium

22. 03. 2010

Presentation of the Zlín
Region in Brussels
European Parliament
Brussels, Belgium

22-26. 03. 2010

EU Sustainable Energy Week
Conference and events
European Union and EU
member countries including
Brussels, Belgium

APRIL

13. 04. 2010

Europe's Macro-Regions: CoR
Forum
Committee of the Regions
Brussels, Belgium

Vacancies in Europe

Internship Offer in Brussels within Erasmus Programme

Zlín Region in Brussels/HAL9000 Limited opens selection procedure to an internship within Erasmus programme for university students. Estimated beginning of the internship is planned at March/April 2010 for period of 3 to 5 months. CV and cover letter in English to be send on hal@hal9000ltd.eu or pjanoskova@zlinregioninbrussels.eu. Please indicate in the cover letter the earliest possible date of your internship and Skype contact details for eventual realisation of a personal interview.

Deadline is prolonged until the end of March 2010.

For further information and requirements see:

http://www.zlinregioninbrussels.eu/img2/HAL_offer_STAGE_en.pdf

European Careers

On 16th of the March 2010, The European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) will launch the first round of a new selection procedure to the European institutions.

For more information about the new selection procedure and possible application visit: <http://europa.eu/epso/>



Year 7, no.04
March 2010

Form closed:
15. 03. 2010

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