

CITIES conference Workshop descriptions – Dordrecht, 13th January 2011

Workshop round 1 (Morning)

You can choose one of the following workshops:

1. Twinning through cultural heritage exchanges by Ecovast, Macedonia and The union of Towns of Slovakia.

Cultural heritage is an object that very often determines the national identity of a population and that presents an interesting matter of research, education and tourism development as a part of economic development. In what way can one emphasise cultural cooperation between institutions of culture (Institutes and Museums)? How can cultural heritage as a subject of twinning encourage tourism? How can cultural cooperation bring peoples together and foster Europeanization?"

2. Cooperation between Local Authorities and Civil Society Organisations in town-twinning by Marco Boaria, ALDA and Gea Davids, Dordrecht.

'If You Don't Know Where You're Going, You'll Probably End Up Somewhere Else'

In this workshop we would like to discuss the interaction between the municipality and private own-initiative in twinning relationships and the best way to organise and structure a town twinning.

- How to assess the characteristics of your twinning
- Roles and instruments of the municipality
- Subsidies or sponsorship?
- Good examples

Statements:

- Town twinning can only be successful if civil society organisations are involved ?
- Town twinning is solely the responsibility of local government

3. Twinning through business/private sector exchanges by Dordrecht-Varna twinning committee Chairman.

'How to involve the private sector in town twinning'

The Dordrecht-Varna association will share experiences with business exchanges between Dordrecht and Varna and other projects like the development of sustainable tourism.

Workshop round 2 (Afternoon)

You can choose one of the following workshops:

4. Good Local Governance as a tool for town-twinning by BMC and Council of Europe Center of Expertise

‘ Good Governance gives societies sound structures for economic and social development’

This quote of Kofi Anan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, tells us that Good Governance has a wider context than principles as fair democratic conduct, transparency, rule of law, human rights, accountability etc. These principles have a great value in itself, but are also basic conditions for development.

In this workshop we will discuss:

- why to combine these principles with development-policy at local level?
- which tools can you use to make these principles work in policy making and the results to be achieved?
- Can town twinning be a two-way-street in this respect?

5. Urban planning 'City Logistics' in town-twinning. Twinning through business/private sector exchanges at local level by the ambassador of City Logistics.

The Dutch narrow cobblestone streets, the canals and the attract millions of tourist every year. Off course we want to preserve this street view and keep out heavy traffic. However retailers, cafeholders, but also e-consumers in these urban areas ask for easy access of their freight. Dutch cities are not the only cities that perceive challenges with city logistics. Today, the demand for modern logistics services in cities is as strong in Sofia or Marrakech as in Amsterdam or Brussels. What can we learn from the methods other municipalities use? How can we share best-practices on this theme?

6. Europe proof: chances for Dutch municipalities regarding the European Union

During the workshop a presentation will be given of the results of a survey BMC did in 24 Dutch municipalities regarding the implementation of EU policies on municipal level. Reason for the survey was that a considerable part of EU legislation has to be implemented on local level. The focus of the survey was therefore how especially small and medium sized municipalities manage to be “Europe proof “. The survey looked into aspects like EU legislation, the usage of EU funds by municipalities and public affairs of municipalities with regard to the development of EU policies. After the presentation of the results a debate will take place on the role of municipalities within the EU.