

VI General Assembly, London, Saturday 18 October 2008

Location Conference Rooms 4 and 5,
 City Hall,
 The Queen's Walk,
 More London,
 LONDON SE1 2AA.

Additional Agenda Items

Additional information has been received in relation to the following Agenda items for the consideration of Members at the General Assembly.

3A European Neighbourhood Policy

3D Latin America Study Visit - October 2009

4C ESPON

5A EUCO2 80/50 project on Climate change/Urban change under Interreg IVC

5E Proposed Expert Group on Employment relocation within metropolitan areas

5F Proposed Expert Group on Polycentricity in Metropolitan Areas

8B Presidential election

Following the sad loss of METREX President Dr. Bernd Steinacher, there will be a Presidential election at the General Assembly. Nominations supported by one other Member verbally or in writing, will be accepted by the Secretary General, up to the opening of the General Assembly.

Each METREX Member area, represented by a Region, Province or Commune etc. or more than one authority, only has one vote. If there is more than one nomination then there may be a Presidential election, if the candidates wish this. Voting papers will be given to all METREX Member areas represented at the London Conference, in advance, in case an election is required. The vote is for a simple majority. Any vote will be taken as the last item on the General Assembly agenda.

It is recognised that this procedure will not allow Members not attending the Conference and the General Assembly to vote. It is hoped that colleagues will accept that the procedures suggested above are in response to exceptional and unforeseen circumstances and are designed to ensure that the METREX Presidency is filled for the coming two years.

Approval for the above procedures will be sought from the General Assembly before any vote is taken

3A European Neighbourhood Policy

Jakub Urbanik, from DG RELEX, has written to confirm that "Concerning the possibility for organising the meeting...as I heard from our administration, it is possible to organise "small" consultative meetings in the interest of the service, where up to 5 invited persons could be reimbursed for their trip to Brussels. We sometimes use this to invite the partners from the ENP states. But I need to look at this more closely and it would require some effort to facilitate a meeting. Nevertheless, it doesn't seem impossible".

The Secretary General will progress this opportunity and invite METREX Ambassadors to attend

3D Latin America Study Visit - October 2009

Preliminary expressions of interest in the Study Visit have been received from Frankfurt, Stockholm, Mazovia, Sofia and Rotterdam. With Madrid and METREX representatives this would make a delegation of perhaps 8-10. This is about the minimum size of delegation.

Other expressions of interest may be received when more details are known

4C ESPON

E-Mail for information from Professor Cliff Hague, ESPON UK Contact Point.

Dear Metrex Colleagues

Roger kindly copied me in to his email about ESPON. I would just like to clarify the current situation. ESPON currently has an open a call for bids to undertake research. This is in respect of a study on climate change, and also several "Priority 2" projects. The climate change project is a "Priority 1" project - that is to say a conventional ESPON project that will look at data and indicators across the 31 ESPON countries and produce lots of maps. Though a team bidding for this project may suggest case study cities, this is unlikely to be a major part of the project, which will mainly concentrate on the "big picture" across the while "ESPON space".

The "Priority 2" projects are "Targeted Research". These are new to the ESPON 2013 programme. Each Priority 2 project has a more specific, narrower concern, both in terms of the territorial focus of the work and its core content, than the Priority 1 projects or the ESPON 2006 projects. Thus, for example, one of the Priority 2 projects currently tendered is on how agglomeration economies really work, and it involves the city regions of Manchester, Barcelona, Lyons and Dublin. Again the call now out is for researchers to form trans-national teams and put in a bid to do the research. Here the case studies will be to the fore, rather than new cross-Europe data collection, but they will be case studies of the stakeholders who proposed the project - i.e. in the example I have cited, Manchester, Barcelona, Lyons and Dublin.

There is also a call for researchers to bid for a project on Territorial Indicators and Indices.

This means, with respect to Roger, this is not really the stage for METREX members to "suggest work briefs that ESPON could then help to progress". That stage is past for now - the briefs are written and can be downloaded from www.espon.eu <<http://www.espon.eu>> . However, it is a time for METREX members to begin to think about whether they would wish to develop such work briefs for ESPON Priority 2 projects in time for the next call for such projects, though that call will probably not now be until 2010.

One thing that will happen in early 2009 is a call for proposals from ESPON national Contact Points for Trans-national Networking Activities. These calls can only come from ECPs - so METREX members cannot directly propose them themselves.

However, as the UK ECP, following my participation in your meeting in Amsterdam in May, I did suggest to my fellow ECPs in June that one possibility might be a proposal for a project on ESPON implications for metropolitan areas.

There was real interest in this, with the ECP for Belgium being particularly enthusiastic. Thus one thing I hope to do between now and next February (when the call for proposals will open - it will close in April and decisions on the proposals are expected in June 09) is to explore what interest METREX might have in such a proposal. For example, there might be an opportunity to link with METREX over dissemination of ESPON metro' area findings or a joint event, or to partner with individual METREX members on similar activities. Given that ESPON will by then have projects running on Cities and on Territorial Indicators and also the Manchester-Barcelona-Lyons-Dublin

study that I mentioned, there should be new material to share and invite METREX comments about.

I hope this helps and we can build a useful ESPON-METREX platform over the next couple of years. Meanwhile can I remind you that you are all welcome to access our ESPON UK website at www.espon.org.uk <<http://www.espon.org.uk>>. You can join our ESPON UK Network, which provides you with news updates and a chance to engage in on-line forums. All you have to do to join is to register your details on the site: though it is run by the Royal Town Planning Institute you don't have to be an RTPI member or from the UK to join. The site also includes presentations that you can download. I hope some of you will "sign up".

Best wishes to all,

Cliff

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5A EUCO2 80/50 project on Climate change/Urban change under Interreg IVC

The Interreg IVC Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) assessed all 490 Applications received by the deadline of this January and recommended only about 10% for approval at the meeting of the Steering Committee in Marseille on 18/19 September. The EUCO2 80/50 project was not approved. Since then METREX has had an exchange of correspondence with Michel Lamblin, Interreg IVC Programme Manager, which explains how any re-submission should be handled. The EUCO2 80/50 partners are aware of the detailed reservations expressed by the JTS, which primarily refer to the ways in which the project is explained in the Application Work Plan. A revised Application has been drafted for the consideration of partners at a meeting on Wednesday 15 October in London.

The options that the Lead Partner, the Metropolregion Hamburg, and METREX are exploring for consideration by partners include.

- 1 Partners continue with the project programme starting this October. The first step - Greenhouse gas emissions assessments and inventories - may be completed by partners using the GRIP model and supported by Dr. Sebastian Carney and his team. The second and third steps - Mitigation scenarios and strategies - might then be included in a revised Interreg IVC Application (submissions in January 2009 and possible decisions in May/June). Such an Application has been drafted.
- 2 Partners continue with the project with private sponsorship. The Lead Partner has prepared a Prospectus for this purpose and is exploring the possibilities.

- 3 Partners continue with the project using the GRIP model and process and contracting collectively with Dr. Sebastian Carney and his team through the Centre for Urban and Environmental Research (CURE) at Manchester University. The University is part of the Tyndall Centre team.

The Lead Partner will report to the GA on the outcome of the partner meeting on Wednesday 15 October

5E Proposed Expert Group on Employment relocation within metropolitan areas

Colleagues from Frankfurt, Amsterdam, London, Sofia and Regione Piemonte (possible) have expressed an interest in participating in this Expert Group to be led by IAU Region Ile-de-France.

5F Proposed Expert Group on Polycentricity in Metropolitan Areas

Colleagues from Nordregio, Sofia and Regione Piemonte (possible) have expressed an interest in participating in this Expert Group to be led by Stockholm County Council.

Other colleagues may wish to express an interest in either of the two Expert Groups mentioned above

RR/5/10/2008