
REGI News

Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development

VII Legislature N. 13 - 20 September 2010



Meeting on

**Monday 27 September 2010 (15.00 - 18.30)
& Tuesday 28 September 2010 (9.00 - 12.30)
JAN 4 Q 2**

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PART I

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 27 and 28 September 2010

The following items will be discussed as foreseen in the [draft agenda](#). Please note that most committee documents (working documents, draft reports, etc. are available at our website [REGI](#).

1. Exchange of views with Mr Janusz Antoni Lewandowski, Commissioner on Budget and Financial Programming (Point 4 of the draft agenda)

European structural funds have played and are still playing a major role in the Union's economic strategy aimed at redressing the unprecedented financial crisis and concomitant economic downturn. This situation has forced Member State governments to take drastic action to cut the exceptional levels of public debt which were engendered by the necessity to inject large sums of money into the banking system.

In this context, the mid term review of the Union's budget, the necessity for which was agreed at the December 2005 European Council, takes on a new and more strategic importance as it will no doubt be a major tool for the design of the post 2013 Financial framework. It is for these reasons that the Chair has invited Commissioner Lewandowski to participate in an exchange of views with the committee.

2. Hearing on the European Urban Agenda and its Future in Cohesion Policy (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

Following the Leipzig charter and the Reference Framework for European Sustainable Cities, the declaration of Ministers responsible for Urban Development (Toledo, 22 June 2010) concludes among others on the need to consolidate a European urban agenda in the future. Further to this, the urban dimension of Cohesion Policy, the role of cities in regional development and the role of local authorities in the management of funds is an important theme of the discussions on the future of Cohesion Policy.

Against this backdrop the Rapporteur, Mr Vlasák, intends to start the work on his report on the basis of a thorough analysis of the current situation and exchanges with various

stakeholders. The concept of the "mini-hearing" in the context of the first exchange in REGI of this report is to invite practitioners who can provide Members with their experience on two important aspects: integrated urban development and sub-delegation of management of funds.

Mr Ruud van Raak (Program manager, Managing Authority West, The Netherlands), and Liam Robinson (Councillor, City of Liverpool, to be confirmed) will share their views with the Committee.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák	Exchange of views with "mini-hearing": 27/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Consideration of working document: 27-28/10/2010
Procedure: 2010/2158 (INI)	Consideration of draft report: 12/2010 (tbc)
	Adoption REGI: 01/2010 (tbc)
	Plenary: 02/2010 (tbc)

3. Achieving real territorial, social and economic cohesion within the EU - a sine qua non condition for global competitiveness? (Point 7 of the draft agenda)

In his report Mr Luhan underlines the key role that public sector has in rebuilding the financial sector and the role of cohesion policy in this task particularly by ensuring public investment and sustainable development. In his view balanced economic development of the EU will reduce the differences in the level of development of the regions and prepares them to face challenges like globalisation, demographic and climate changes, taking into consideration their specific weaknesses. He underlines in this respect the importance of R&D. He supports the views expressed in the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion public consultation process regarding the most important components of territorial cohesion which he considers to be, respect for regional diversity, development of the territorial potential and territorial competitiveness and the importance of accessibility through infrastructure and public services.

103 Amendments have been tabled to this report. The vote is planned to take place on 28 September.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Petru Constantin Luhan	Exchange of views: 17/03/2010
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Consideration of draft report: 21/06/2010
Procedure: 2009/2233(INI)	Deadline for Ams: 29/06/2010
	Adoption REGI: 28/09/2010 (tbc)
	Plenary: October 2010 (tbc)

4. Good governance with regards to the EU regional policy: procedures of assistance and control by the European Commission (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

In her draft report, Ms. Manescu (ALDE) analyses the concept for multi-level governance starting from the White Paper adopted in June 2009 by the Committee of the Regions.

The report states that efficiency of Cohesion Policy depends not only on the design of policies but to a great extent on the implementation capacities at local and regional levels. The participation of national authorities is very important from the very beginning,

that is to say, from the pre-legislative stage. Multi-level governance allows for a better exploitation of territorial cooperation and in this context Member States are encouraged to further support the implementation of European Groupings of Territorial cooperation on their territory.

As a general, overarching principle, the simplification exercise of the policy should continue after 2013. Moreover, the Erasmus for local and regional elected should be applied on a more practical way, involving also the local and regional administrative levels in charge of management.

On 28 September the REGI committee will vote on the 61 amendments tabled to this report and some compromise amendments. The vote in plenary is scheduled in November in Strasbourg.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Ms Ramona Nicole Mănescu	Consideration of working document: 17/03/2010
Responsible administrator: Elisa Daffarra	Mini-hearing and II consideration of WD: 26/04/2010
Procedure: 2009/2231(INI)	Consideration of draft report: 13/07/2010
	Adoption REGI: 28/09/2010
	Plenary: November 2010

5. Motion for a resolution further to a question for oral answer on EU Cohesion and Regional Policy after 2013 (Point 9 of the draft agenda)

The draft motion for resolution was drawn up on the basis of the informal Position Paper on the future Cohesion Policy adopted by the Committee at its meeting the 13 July 2010. It sets out some key issues regarding the future of Cohesion Policy on which there is a broad consensus within REGI, such as the need for a well-finance European Regional policy covering all regions of the EU, the rejection of renationalisation of the policy.

28 amendments were tabled to the draft motion for resolution, proposing changes with regard to the role of the European Social Fund in the policy, indicators forming the basis of eligibility for funding, but also control and performance and financial engineering. The vote will take place the 28

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Danuta Hübner	Consideration of draft resolution: 06/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Deadline for Ams: 09/09/2010
Procedure:	Adoption REGI: 28/09/2010
	Planned adoption in plenary: October I 2010 (tbc)

6. Exchange of views with Mr Jan Olsson, rapporteur of the European Economic and Social Committee on Efficient partnership in cohesion policy (Point 10 of the draft agenda)

Mr Jan Olsson (Sweden – Various Interests Group) will present the exploratory opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of which he was Rapporteur: *How to foster efficient partnership in the management of the new cycle of cohesion policy's programmes*

2007-2013 based on good practices. This opinion had been requested by the European Commission in early 2009 and was adopted in July 2010.

The key finding is that partnership is key to the success of Cohesion policy projects as it greatly improves its effectiveness on the ground, responds to the needs of the local actors, and strengthens citizen participation; and creates a visible link between the EU and civil society. Partnership thereby creates a win-win for all stakeholders. However, if the authorities are unwilling to engage in partnership with organised civil society, the latter will not be in a position to contribute to the success of cohesion policy projects.

7. The implementation of the Services Directive 2006/123/EC (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

The Competitiveness Council of 25-26 May 2010 gave an update of the situation in the implementation of the Services Directive highlighting the key priorities for action (see document 9475/10 of the Council). Moreover, the same Council formation issued a report on the mutual evaluation process under Article 39 of the Services Directive. In the context of this process and in view of the report that the Commission will submit to the Parliament and the Council by 28 December 2010 (under Article 39(4) of the Directive), the Presidency requested that the Commission reflects both the positive achievements of the Member States as a result of the implementation of the Directive (in view of the difficulties encountered by Member States and their effort in the adaptation of their legislation to the directive), on one hand, and also the need to link the mutual evaluation process to the horizontal internal market policies under development, such as Europe 2020 (see document 9327/10 of the Council), on the other.

The opinion of Ms. Hyusmenova underlines the great potential of the Services Directive for the relaunch and the reinforcement of the internal market and for growth and competitiveness. It further highlights the potential of the IMI and the PSCs for the improvement and possibly of extension/deepening of the interoperability and networking between regional and local authorities. The draftswoman, in her opinion, states her hopes of a quick achievement of the objectives of the Directive, underlining the role of the structural funds in this respect and calling for greater coherence and coordination between policies. Furthermore, the draft opinion demands for a close monitoring by the Commission of the impact of the Directive across regions as well as of the application of the restrictions concerning the services of general economic interest.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Filiz Hakaeva Hyusmenova	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Planned deadline for Ams:
Procedure: 2010/2053(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 27/10/2010 (tbc)
Lead Committee:IMCO - Rapporteur E. Gebhardt	Planned adoption in IMCO: 30/11/2010 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: 17/01/2011 (tbc)

8. GDP and beyond - Measuring progress in a changing world (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

The report is based upon the Commission Communication entitled "GDP and beyond - Measuring progress in a changing world" (COM(2009)0433), which intends to improve data and indicators to complement the GDP. For this purpose, the Commission proposes a number of actions, namely aiming at complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators and well-being indicators and at providing for near real-time information

(statistics) for decision-making purposes, as well as more accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, among other actions specified in the Communication.

Against this backdrop, in his opinion, the draftsman welcomes the Commission's intention to adopt indicators complementary to GDP, which although indispensable is insufficient for the assessment of the regions' development and the design of the cohesion policies. The opinion underlines the relevance of the environmental sustainability and social equity factors, which should be put at the same level of the economic criteria. Accordingly, the draftsman calls on the Commission to give priority to the setting of complementary social and environmental indicators, proposing that these be applied both to the classification of regions and to the definition of their eligibility to obtain support from the funds.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Jean-Paul Basset	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Planned deadline for Ams:
Procedure: 2010/2088(INI)	Planned adoption REGI:
Lead Committee: ENVI Rapporteur: A. Rosbach	Planned adoption ENVI: 30/11/2010 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: 17/01/2011 (tbc)

9. An EU Strategy for the Black Sea (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

The last enlargement of the European Union has shifted its borders to the Black Sea, leading to an enhanced EU involvement in a region that traditionally had been beyond the EU direct interests. At the same time the European Commission assessed critically the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), especially on conflict resolution that is the most difficult issue around the Black Sea. This led to the publication of the Black Sea Synergy by the European Commission in April 2007 to increase cooperation with and between the countries surrounding the Black Sea. The Black Sea Synergy was designed as a flexible framework complementary to existing EU policies in the region, i.e. the ENP (relevant for five Eastern ENP countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), the strategic partnership with the Russian Federation and the pre-accession policy for Turkey. The Strategy was very broad including a large number of priority areas. The *Report on the first year of implementation of the Black Sea Synergy* adopted on 19 June 2008 shows uneven progress across sectors, with very limited achievements in sectors such as democracy, trade and conflict resolution. The Black Sea Synergy has also been criticised by other EU actors including European Parliament that have pointed at the need for more coordinated action in the region taking account on the new developments such as reorientation of Ukraine's approach towards Russia and the economic crises. One of the most important achievements of the Black Sea Synergy has been the establishment of sectoral partnerships in three key areas: environment, transport and energy.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Victor Boștinăru	Exchange of views: 28/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring	Consideration of draft opinion: 27/10/2010 (tbc)
Procedure: 2010/2087(INI)	Planned deadline for Ams:
Lead Committee : AFET - Rapporteur: T. Ungureanu	Planned adoption REGI: 30/11/2010 (tbc)
	Planned adoption in AFET: 02/12/2010 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: 13/12/2010 (tbc)

10. Revision of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

The Heads of States and Governments have endorsed an ambitious European Energy policy which seeks to enable the European Union to reduce greenhouse gases by at least 20 %, to reduce energy consumption by 20 % and increase to 20 % the share of renewable energies in energy consumption by 2020.

The Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (EEAP) of 2006 was prepared and adopted with a view to intensify the process of realising the substantial cost-effective energy savings potential and the above-mentioned target on energy consumption reduction. The Plan's running time is until 2012. A major mid-term review to evaluate its effectiveness and results was scheduled to take place in 2009.

A lot has been achieved until the adoption of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan in 2006; however, the political and economical context has changed quite a lot since then. Therefore, there is a clear need to review the EU's Energy Efficiency policy to align it with the current priorities and developments. A thorough assessment of the achievements and shortcomings of the 2006 Energy Efficiency Action Plan should be undertaken as a basis for the revision of the EU's energy efficiency policy.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE
Rapporteur: Lena Kolarska-Bobińska	Consideration of draft opinion: 28/09/2010
Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring	Planned deadline for Ams:
Procedure: 2010/2107(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 27/10/2010 (tbc)
Lead Committee :ITRE - Rapporteur: B. Bendtsen	Planned adoption in ITRE: 09/11/2010 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: 13/12/2010 (tbc)



PART II

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 12 and 13 July 2010

1. INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETING

European Parliament Committee on Regional Development - National Parliaments

On 12 July 2010 the Committee on Regional Development Committee hosted an inter-parliamentary meeting, where the Members of this Committee and of the corresponding national committees - representing 19 National Chambers coming of 16 Member States - met to share their views on the "impact on and practical implications of the Lisbon Treaty for Cohesion Policy".

After the introductory remarks of the Chair, Ms. Danuta Hübner, the debate was opened by four key-note speakers: Mr. Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy; Mr Rudy Demotte, Minister-President of the Walloon Region and of the French Community; Mr. Giancarlo Giorgetti, Chairman of the Budget Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and Mr. Vytautas Kurpuvesas, Chair of the Committee of State Administration and Local Authorities of the Lithuanian Parliament.

A very lively debate on many and various issues concerning cohesion policy in the new institutional and legal framework provided by the Treaty of Lisbon, namely the role of European Social Fund in the future, simplification, transparency, governance and the subsidiarity principle, led to the following main conclusions of this inter-parliamentary meeting:

1. The Treaty of Lisbon can improve the way cohesion policy is designed and implemented as well as increase the involvement of National Parliaments in the EU decision-making process. However, the Treaty only provides for a formal framework of cooperation, which needs to be exploited through concrete actions from both sides, which need to work together for a better cohesion policy in the future;

2. National Parliaments must be ready to strengthen their cooperation not only with the European Parliament, but also internally both between parliamentary committees with complementary responsibilities and with respective national governments, regardless of the political affiliations;

3. On its side, the REGI Committee wishes to work closely with National Parliaments to fully exploit the opportunities created by the Treaty. This cooperation will be invaluable in the context of the negotiations on the future EU budget and of the future cohesion policy.

2. Exchange of views with Mr Rudy Demotte, Minister-President of the Walloon Region and of the French Community, acting as President-in-Office of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Mr. Demotte presented to the Committee the priorities on cohesion policy for the semester of the Belgian presidency.

His intervention focussed on the main priority of the future of cohesion policy ensuring that the Belgian Presidency will attentively follow and participate in the ongoing debates of the different European institutions with the view to prepare the path to the legislative proposals to be presented by the Commission next year.

Special attention will be devoted in particular to the debates on the multi-annual financial framework and on the EU2020 Strategy to ensure that the role of the cohesion policy is duly recognised and safeguarded.

Prior focus will be reserved on the one hand to the discussion on the priorities of intervention which need to be concentrated on a limited number; on the other hand to the geographical scope of the policy, which should ensure the maintenance of the Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment for the future.

The crucial role of cities and the linkage urban-rural areas in the policy were also mentioned as an element of priority as well as the practical application of the new objective of territorial cohesion, taking into consideration the regional specificities of the European Union.

The Minister-President announced the following main events to be held during the Belgian Presidency:

- Informal meeting of EU Ministers in charge of the cohesion policy: 22-23 November 2010 in Liège;
- Conference on the European territorial cooperation: 30 September - 1 October 2010 in Tournai.

3. The following votes took place

- **Temporary suspension of autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on imports of certain industrial products into Madeira and the Azores**
Draftsperson: Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE)
The opinion was adopted by 39 votes in favour and 1 abstention.
- **Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) - Evaluation of progress made and new challenges**
Draftsperson: Georgios Stavrakakis (S&D)
The opinion was adopted by 39 votes in favour and 1 against.

4. Report on the work of the Working party on the future of the Cohesion Policy

After several months of discussion and negotiations the Working Party on the future of cohesion policy delivered a Position Paper containing a non-exhaustive list of points reflecting the political groups' basic positions on the Cohesion Policy post-2013. These points represent those issues where the political groups could come to an agreement, without entering into details given the early stage of the discussions within the groups, namely the control and audit authorities, financial flow, *ex ante* assessment of managing and control systems, certification and annual assurance, closure and clearance and eligibility, among others.

The content of the paper as proposed by the WPoFCP was thoroughly discussed in the Coordinators' meeting the 21 June and then finalised by written procedure between the Coordinators' and the Members of the WpoFCP.

The position paper was endorsed by the majority of the REGI members.

5. Simplifying the implementation of the Research Framework Programmes

The Rapporteur presented the key ideas outlined in the draft opinion, which welcomed the proposal aiming at simplifying administrative procedures and asked that experience with simplification in cohesion policy should be capitalised upon, and in this context highlighted the importance of synergies between policy areas. The draft highlighted the role of local and regional level in stimulating innovation, and also stressed the territorial impact of excellence based support for R&D and innovation. However, it has also a side effect of complexity and it is particularly difficult for smaller organisations such as SMEs, high tech start-ups, smaller universities and research centres to be successful with their applications. The 2009 Consultation of the European Commission on the simplification of the implementation of the EU Research Framework Programmes has shown that the main argument of the stakeholders was the complexity of portfolios, funding schemes and intervention mechanisms, among others.

Members intervening in the debate that followed highlighted the need to foster research in the regions on one hand and to provide small businesses with the capacity to have access to it on the other. Furthermore Members call for further simplification, asking for a standardised application process for all EU programmes, and for a more performance-based funding. However, the report was also considered to be lacking a link between innovation and social integration in disadvantaged areas and cities for the benefit of vulnerable groups in such areas.

The deadline for amendments was set for 22 July, at noon.

6. Parliament's position on the 2011 Draft Budget as modified by the Council - Section III - Commission

In his opinion the Rapporteur first proposes to put back any amounts the Council may have reduced from the Commission's draft budget. This is justified, as in the past, by the fact that the Commission is the only institution with an overall view of budgetary needs. He then

proposes a Pilot project in favour of the Danube macro-region and calls on the Commission to support and implement all the pilot projects retained and proposed by the Committee.

Members reminded the difficulties of Member States and underlined that the Commission proposal is based on the Member States' forecast. For this reason, they insist on the need to restore the amounts proposed by the Commission, whose proposals are considered acceptable. Some Members highlight the very different rates of absorption and insist on the need to obtain information on the underlying reasons in order to avoid cutting the amounts foreseen, on one hand, and on the importance of assisting Member States in the use of funding, on the other. In conclusion, it was deemed necessary to defend the Commission's proposal and to send a strong message to the Council to that effect.

The deadline for amendments was set for 26 July, at noon.

PART III - Other News

Here you will find the latest news related to Committee activities and cohesion policy issues



Chair's participation on events on behalf of the Committee

Ms Hübner has participated as a chairperson of the Committee in the following events since the last meeting:

20 - 21 July	Montechristi, Ecuador	FOGAR - Forum of Global Asociacions of Regions	Seminar 'Taking decentralisation further - A response to globalisation'
21 - 23 July	Santander, ES	UIMP - Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo	'Regional branding in the EU 2020'
14 September	Brussels (Committee of the Regions)	Federal State of Bremen	Panel debate on the Future of the CP and the importance of the Structural Funds' objective - Regional Competitiveness and Employment for the development of innovation systems
16 September	Warsaw, PL	General Assembly of Polish Regions	Future of the Cohesion Policy

More information is available at the Chair's website <http://danuta-huebner.pl/>
or with the secretariat.

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Ms Hübner, representing the committee, has accepted so far an invitation to participate (until the next REGI meeting) in the following events:

24 September	Wrocław, PL	Conference on renewable energy organised by newspaper "Gazeta Prawna"	The role for regional policy in stimulating green energy production
1 October	Tournai, BE	Belgian Presidency	Conference on the Territorial Cooperation
4 October	Brussels	COR	Opening session - 'Open Days'
5 October	Brussels	COR	REGI COTER Meeting
5 October 14.30	Brussels	GE	Open Days Workshop on best practice using structural funds
6 October 11:15-13:00	Brussels	Fundacion Galicia Europa	Conference on Tackling regional inequalities: The Future of European Regional Policy
7 October	Brussels	The region of Lower Austria	Lower Austrian Initiative - Prolongation of Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective post 2013, addressing regional presidents during handing-over ceremony (in the context of the Open Days)
8 October	Warsaw	City of Warsaw	Cities in the regional policy after 2013
12 October 11:00-12:30	Brussels	Knowledge4Innovation	2nd European Innovation Summit. Session: "Urban and Regional Mobility in the EU"

Library News

Publications



Regional studies / Regional Studies Association, monthly

Regional Studies is an international journal in theoretical development, empirical analysis and policy debate in the multi- and inter-disciplinary field of regional studies. It contains: high-quality research, critical surveys, policy debates and special thematic issues. (Available in the Library - see catalogue entry [here](#))

Selected articles from vol. 44, no 8, September 2010:

Regionalization in European Agricultural Policy: Institutional Actualities, Issues and Prospects / by Aurelie Trouve and Marielle Berriet-Sollic, pp 1005 -1018 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)

Global Knowledge and Creativity: New Challenges for Firms and Regions /by Edward Malecki, pp 1033 - 1052 ([full text](#) - click on IP authentication)



Cost-benefit analysis of multi-level government: the case of EU cohesion policy and of US federal investment policies / Alessandro Ferrara. London: Routledge, 2010, 330 p.

This book provides a theoretical framework for assessing public investment policies co-financed by Union (Federal) governments. This framework is applied to two case studies: the EU Cohesion Policy and the US Federal Investment Policies. Cost-Benefit Analysis of Multi-Level Government sheds light on a number of outstanding issues of economic theory by extending the theory of shadow prices, and provides guidance to real-world decision makers. (Available in the Library - make a reservation [here](#))

Library Briefings



[The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region](#) / Tiago Freitas, EP Library, 2010

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (SBSR), adopted by the Council in October 2009, is the first EU macro-region initiative for sustainable development. The SBSR has the general aims of making the region more environmentally sustainable, more prosperous, more accessible and attractive, as well as safer and more secure. The Baltic Sea Region encompasses eight Member States and faces significant challenges in the shipping, fisheries and energy sectors, which are directly or indirectly targeted by the SBSR. An Action Plan for the SBSR, with proposed actions and flagship projects, was prepared following consultation with Member States and stakeholders. Its implementation is in turn dependent on further collaboration. The SBSR does not imply any additional funding, with the transnational cooperation funds of the 2007-13 cohesion policy being the main tool. The EP has welcomed the SBSR and highlighted its contribution to improving the diversification of the region's energy production and supply.

Latest analysis



[A 2020 Vision for the Black Sea Region: report](#) / by the Commission on the Black Sea, May 2010

The Report provides a set of eight recommendations each of which contains the seeds of more detailed proposals and frameworks aimed at ensuring that the Black Sea region becomes one of peace, security, stability, sustainable development,

innovation, and prosperity by harnessing the potential of its peoples. The Report also clearly suggests that focussing on regional cooperation and development without addressing the resolution of the various conflicts will not make the region sustainable.



[Regional discrepancies in private household income narrowing](#) / Eurostat, Statistics in focus, no 41, 2010

This "Statistics in focus" analyses the structure of private household income in the European Union in 2007. Data on Bulgaria have been integrated as well. The analysis focuses on a comparison among the regions for the year 2007. In addition mid-term developments are illustrated by way of a comparison of the situation with the year 2000. (Source: [Eurostat website](#))



[Urban Development in Europe: a Survey of National Approaches to Urban Policy in 15 EU Member States](#) / European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN), June 2010

This publication provides an overview of urban policy in 15 EU Member States i.e. Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom. It includes historical background, basics of the urban system, legal framework of urban policy and current issues. The survey has been conducted by the 15 EUKN National Focal Points and the EUKN Secretariat.



[Urban Shrinkage in Europe: benefits and limits of an indicator-based analysis](#) / Manuel Wolff, Working Paper No 06, June 2010

This paper gives an idea of the complexity of urban shrinkage based on an analysis of European cities. Moreover, it will allow the comparison between cities among each other. A common description of shrinkage is based on the development of the population. It was assumed, that the population trend acts as an explanation for the economic; social or housing development. But is this conclusion enough to describe the broaden aspect of shrinkage? Are there cities that face a strong decline in other parts beside from the demographic decrease? The results of this paper show that the distribution of cities with a declining population differs from the distribution resulting from a complex analysis. The complex analysis includes indicators for demography, economy and labour market. Finally, the paper points out that it is essential to characterize shrinkage with more than simply a declining population.