

INTEGAIRE Project: Integrated Urban Governance and Air Quality Management in Europe

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INTEGAIRE aims to explore solutions to key challenges for urban governance and air quality management throughout Europe. The principal objectives are:

The first focuses on urban governance and concerns the development of the existing weak and poorly specified interface between, on the one hand, air quality assessment, management and monitoring tools developed in relation to the urban environment, and on the other hand, tools for sustainable urban governance at the urban level. The aim is to encourage the development of a strongly integrated model and appropriate tools linking air quality science and technology to the needs of end users at the urban level, and thereby optimise local decision making.

The second horizontal objective concerns the development of a coherent and comprehensive framework of network activities that facilitates the identification of RTD gaps and future RTD priorities in the field of urban air quality management and urban governance. These initiatives will assist the development, and provide a sound basis for, the new research agenda, that will be pursued via the 6th Framework Programme and the European Research Area.

Scientific objectives & approach

INTEGAIRE aims to contribute to:

Improving the implementation at urban level of current Air Quality legislation through the development of recommendations and exchange of experience on air quality management, air quality assessment, integration of national and local practice and public information.

- Information exchange on approaches and successes on the development and/or implementation of local action. This activity focuses on the results of European & national research and its usefulness in the local context and on sharing this information with ongoing work on European policy developments, feeding into the European “Clean Air For Europe” (CAFÉ) initiative.
- Integration between local and European levels in development of EU Air Quality policy (CAFÉ).
- Interactions with existing RTD activities on Air Quality (SATURN, relevant FP5 projects including ISHTAR, URBAN-AEROSOL and BUGS, and relevant national/local projects/programmes) to promote the use of research results and new tools in Air Quality management and to identify gaps in available information, highlighting research priorities.

Expected Impacts

1. Provision of an international forum for urban air quality officials and other urban air quality specialists;

2. Identification of effective urban strategies;
3. Identification of institutional barriers and solutions to integrate urban Air Quality management into other fields of competence including transport, spatial planning and regional competencies;
4. Identification of implementation problems in current legislation and solutions;
5. Stimulation of urban Air Quality management by encouraging interaction amongst responsible local officials;
6. Increased effectiveness of urban Air Quality management: insights into the “pros and cons” of different approaches;
7. Better implementation at the urban level of current Air Quality legislation;
8. Inputs from the urban level to planned revisions of Air Quality legislation;
9. More effective communication with citizens;
10. Stimulation of a coherence between public information/involvement approaches across Europe;
11. Provision of a toolbox of strategies/approaches/measures for Air Quality officers;
12. Provision of a forum of local expertise to assist developers of European level strategies and measures;
13. Better insights into the feasibility of local measures to improve urban Air Quality;
14. Inputs to the development of urban Air Quality improvement scenarios in CAFÉ;
15. Broad forum for providing feedback to ideas developed in CAFÉ.

Scientific / technical objectives

Urban Governance and Air Quality

The INTEGAIRE Thematic Network addresses the main objectives of Key Action 4 - City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage in respect of the common challenge to improve the quality of life in urban communities and to ensure the competitiveness of cities and towns of all sizes, while promoting sustainable development assessed in economic, environmental, social and cultural terms.

The Thematic Network focuses on the issues identified in Priority 4.1.1 of the Key Action to facilitate a better understanding of urban decision making to support sustainable development. This is targeted by policy relevant, integrated, comprehensive and innovative tools, methods, systems and instruments for sustainable city planning and management, as well as models for citizen participation.

One of the prime difficulties facing local authorities is the lack of integrated approaches and the difficulty of bringing together experts, both from a technical and a policy perspective, together into a meaningful and result oriented dialogue. Air quality is an environmental issue that has links to many policies, some only indirectly concerned with urban environmental policies. Most notably in this respect are local planning and local transport planning policies.

Environmental pollution, according to a recent report by the European Environment Agency, has been reduced in many areas over the past decade, however, the area of urban air quality continues to be one of great concern. Air quality remains a difficult issue to address. Much effort has gone into the development, implementation and enforcement of legislation in this field and successes have been observed in respect of emissions from point sources, but the major problem remaining is the continued rise in urban air pollution as a result of traffic and transport.

A second vital issue to be addressed concerns the continued difficulties faced by regulators in respect of the need to influence the behaviour of individual citizens, the need to raise awareness and knowledge of air quality issues and the ways in which they affect individuals, and the difficulty of stimulating citizens to actively participate in shaping local action in this field, increasing citizen and stakeholder participation in urban decision making.

INTEGAIRE will facilitate the debate on a number of important air quality related issues and focus discussion on the identification of the key issues at stake and the processes/actions needed to reach solutions that directly address the issue of improving urban governance and decision making. INTEGAIRE will generate recommendations for changes in policy-making approaches, the identification of new, unexplored areas of research and the exchange of existing policy and research work which is currently insufficiently understood across Europe.

INTEGAIRE Mission

INTEGAIRE, as a Thematic Network focused on Urban Governance and Air Quality management aims to explore solutions to key challenges for urban governance and air quality management throughout Europe. Two principal objectives are identified:

- The first objective focuses on urban governance and concerns the development of the existing weak and poorly specified interface between, on the one hand, air quality assessment, management and monitoring tools developed in relation to the urban environment, and on the other hand, tools for sustainable urban governance at the urban level. The aim is to encourage the development of a strongly integrated model and appropriate tools that link air quality science and technology to the needs of the policy end user at the urban level, and thereby optimise local decision making;
- The second horizontal objective concerns the development of a coherent and comprehensive network and framework of network activities that facilitates the identification of RTD gaps and future RTD priorities in the field of urban air quality management and urban governance. These initiatives will assist the development, and provide a sound basis for, the new research agenda, that will be pursued via the 6th Framework Programme and the European Research Area.

INTEGAIRE Detailed Objectives

INTEGAIRE Thematic Network aims in relation to the above principal objectives to make positive contributions to:

Improvement in the implementation of existing Air Quality legislation at the urban level, most notably the Framework Directive on Ambient Air Quality, through the development of recommendations and exchange of experience on:

- air quality management including short-term action plans
- air quality assessment methods
- integration with national and local practice
- public information

Ensure a stakeholder contribution to the development of a European Thematic Strategy on Air Quality as set out in the 6th Environment Action Programme agreed at the Environment Ministers Council meeting on 7 June 2001. In this Programme, in Article 6.2.(f), the European commission sets out the measures envisaged to improve the quality of air. Furthermore, Article 2.3 of the same Programme sets out the principle of stakeholder consultation. With the INTEGAIRE thematic network, the partners aim to bring together a significant group of stakeholders to contribute to the preparation of the thematic strategy.

Exchange of information on approaches, successes and failures in the development and/or implementation of local action in relation to:

- research results in the context of the European Research Area (ERA), together with ideas on local measures, assessing their effectiveness and cost, and developing best practice
- sharing this information with ongoing work on Air Quality policy development at the European level, feeding into and improving the quality of the urban part of the European Air Quality Policy Programme “Clean Air For Europe” (CAFÉ).

Facilitate and promote greater coordination and communication between the local and Community levels in future development of EU Air Quality policy (CAFÉ):

- Providing expert know how from local practical and from scientific angles to the different technical working groups within the framework of the CAFÉ Initiative .
- Exchange of experience, research results in relation to ERA, and ideas on local measures, assessing their effectiveness and costs, and disseminating this information to Working Groups and other EU bodies involved in the evaluation and further development of EU Air Quality legislation.
- Evaluation of approaches and measures that are being considered at the EU level in the development of revised or new legislation

Interactions with existing RTD activities on Air Quality including SATURN, relevant FP5 projects including ISHTAR and URBAN-AEROSOL, and relevant national/ local projects/programmes with the aim:

- to promote the use of research results and new tools in Air Quality management
- to identify gaps in available information, highlighting research priorities.

In summary, INTEGAIRE will provide a broad platform to facilitate the co-ordination and exchange of knowledge, contributes to improved urban governance and decision-making tools specifically in relation to urban air quality, the development of urban policy at the European level, and identification of good practice.

Innovation

As a result of the increasing awareness at the policy making level of the importance of the health of our citizens, policy making attention at the European level in the past decade has gradually shifted from a traditional approach to ecosystem protection, such as the reduction of acidification and the protection of health. Obviously, the urban environment with its complex

and compact structures is a very important arena in which human exposure to environmental pollution, in particular air pollution is significant. One of the results of ever-stricter EU legislation is a dramatic increase in the requirement for and significance of appropriate and integrated urban air quality management to protect the health of our citizens.

Urban Level and EU Legislation

Clearly the implementation of the new EU Air Quality legislation, which is currently underway, has important practical consequences for cities and urban areas. However, cities have not been directly involved in the development of these Directives, and furthermore, in the preparation for current legislation the emphasis has been on the Air Quality levels and abatement possibilities at the pan European and regional levels. The recent European Commission Working Group on air quality assessment, for example, developed guidance to administrations at the national level only. Overall, the urban level and urban air quality management issues have not been systematically considered.

It is increasingly clear that in this particular area the urban level needs more practical experience, and together with important interactions with higher administrative levels requires active stimulation. Recognition of the deficiencies of previous approaches and the need for a new urban priority are, however, evident in the current proposals for the new long-term and integrated European Air Quality Policy Programme “Clean Air For Europe” (CAFE). In this programme the systematic inclusion of the urban level has been identified as one of the highest priorities.

Integration and Urban Governance

The emerging focus on the urban dimension highlights the concerns and difficulties that surround integration at all levels of governance. Sectoral integration identified with the Cardiff Declaration, and the integration with European Climate Change Policy are major priorities for future EU Air Quality legislation. However, the practical difficulties that exist at the European level concerning integration also exist at the municipal level. Now that the ‘simple’, often technological, measures have been developed and often implemented, more complex and non-technological measures need to be progressed. Full integration, however, is problematic as amongst other things responsibilities are distributed over diverse administrative units.

At the European level ideas and mechanisms are being developed to overcome these difficulties, and similar actions are needed at the municipal level to integrate air quality objectives into sectors such as energy, urban transport and spatial planning and in relation to themes such as Local Agenda 21 and noise. Improved insight into what is possible and not possible at local level will be extremely useful for the future development of realistic European air quality policies based upon more integrated approaches that assist improved decision making and urban governance.

Research for Urban Air Quality

A substantial research effort on urban air quality issues is being conducted throughout Europe, much carried out within the context of the EU Fifth Framework Programme for Research and Development. Significant research is also supported through national or sub-national channels including university funding as well as that supported by municipalities throughout Europe.

However, at present there are hardly any effective channels or mechanism to feed the results of this research into the realms of local authorities and urban managers. University research and much of the research undertaken by national and international bodies rarely reaches cities and city experts/practitioners, and research carried out for a particular city is all too often not shared with other European cities.

It is clear that a more systematic interaction between the supply and demand for research would increase both the applicability of scientific work and the effectiveness of urban air quality practice. In addition, in respect of future research, both for EU funded programmes and within the European Research Area, a systematic investigation of the needs of urban authorities and the identification of research gaps would be of major benefit.

INTEGAIRE Innovative Elements

- Bringing together specialists in air quality issues from the scientific community and local authority experts and decision makers;
- Facilitating and actively stimulating a meaningful dialogue aimed at finding common ground and solutions between urban planners and transport planners;
- Developing recommendations for policy, so contributing to the further development of integrated approaches to air quality legislation and regulations at the European level, as initiated through the CAFÉ initiative;
- Developing recommendations for future research throughout the project, and with the constant involvement of the users, to allow future research priorities to be identified that are strongly influenced by users and other relevant stakeholders.

Project workplan

INTEGAIRE Thematic Network is identified with two main strands of activity:

- 1) Encouraging the development of a strongly integrated model and appropriate tools that link air quality science and technology to the needs of the policy end user at the urban level, and thereby optimise local decision making;
- 2) Facilitating the identification of RTD gaps and future RTD priorities in the field of urban air quality management and urban governance to assist the development of the new research agenda that will be pursued via the 6th Framework Programme and the European Research Area.

To achieve the objectives set out above the project INTEGAIRE Thematic Network is built upon, structured by, and delivered through a series of Work Packages. These Work Packages address both horizontal and thematic issues.

- Thematic Work Packages: address specific thematic challenges identified by the project partners as most relevant to the specific identified priorities of the Key Action - City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage. Thematic Work Packages addressing clearly defined and interlinked problem areas will mostly run in parallel.

- Horizontal Work Packages: are concerned with cross-cutting issues such as Project Management, Integration and Synthesis that facilitates the cross linking of debates into all work packages and the Dissemination and Exploitation of outputs.

Community added value

The Community added value of INTEGAIRE can be considered as a function of both, the exploitation of research capability and the substantive issues it proposes to address.

In relation to the exploitation of research capability the following aspects of INTEGAIRE should be highlighted:

- It allows for an exchange of knowledge, expertise and good operating practice among urban governance actors all over Europe. Indeed, the network has a balanced membership of the different actors from the various European countries, and will be supported by an effective dissemination strategy;
- It facilitates networking among researchers from different countries and from different institutional environments. The INTEGAIRE network will include urban managers, researchers, and consultants from different European countries.
- It creates institutional learning especially by providing for a dialogue between academic research and the “real world” in Europe. This dialogue provides researchers with insights into the positive use of their research and assists in more effectively meeting user needs. It is also important for policy makers and other actors in the urban sector as it disseminates policy relevant knowledge to them.

In relation to the substantive issues the focus of the thematic network, in contributing to the attainment of more effective urban governance is not only relevant at the European level. It is also intimately connected with activities at the local and national levels. However, the challenge for integration in this field is primarily linked to a process of identification of the basis of common problems and common solutions.

In regard to the urban environment, urban governance and citizen participation in urban areas the very fact that these are problems, which affect all European states means that they constitute a set of common problems (i.e. they have a European dimension) that need to be addressed simultaneously at both national and European levels within a coherent and cohesive policy framework. The alternative is a more fragmented European society in which urban areas in some nations and regions are successful whilst others continue to lag behind or fall even further behind holding out the prospect of a socially and economically divided Europe.

Thus the key issue facing those concerned with policy making for cities in particular is how to respond to these changes at both a national and European level. What new mechanisms/innovations can better enable us to manage and cope with the economic, environmental and structural changes affecting urban areas? How can positive visions of the future development of European cities be articulated and agreed upon? Forward looking urban debates pulling together international experience could be invaluable in assisting the development of EU policies. Moreover, there is a need to respond to these issues in both the short and long term. The problems facing European cities will not simply disappear overnight nor will cities themselves remain unchanged – we are dealing with a dynamic context and it is therefore important to look beyond the immediate situation and think about how we might

respond to future situations. Thus it is particularly important at this point in time to instigate a major and sustained debate that can support and extend the initiatives currently being developed by the Commission and make proposals for the longer future of European cities.

In this context the European added value of the INTEGAIRE network can thus be identified through the ability to mobilise the great wealth of information and practice experience that exists at national and local levels, which, if not appropriately disseminated, can lead to the duplication of effort and other inefficiencies. In this way INTEGAIRE:

- brings together and integrates ‘isolated’ research and demonstration activities at the European, national and local levels, aimed at improving the quality of urban synergies. In addition, the multi-disciplinary approach applied at the European level will facilitate understanding of the true nature and impacts of urban policy measures with regard to environmental and socio-economic efficiency, etc;
- allows the identification of ‘good’ practice and the key barriers and challenges from the huge wealth of pan-European experience and practice;
- contributes to the creation of an overall consensus among key actors in urban governance on a vision for new sustainable urban governance that addresses, in an integrated manner, varied aspects at the urban level, and a strategy for realising this vision. Such a wide ranging vision is based on a consensus among different key actors including authorities, and users across Europe;
- provides ‘European’ recommendations on the means whereby sustainable urban governance can be achieved, based on a European-wide consultation process and a wide ranging consensus. This will certainly improve the credibility of these recommendations and facilitate implementation in the field;
- offers guidance on additional and priority research needs at the European level.

Contribution to EU Policies

INTEGAIRE will support the implementation of a wide range of EU policies, which are specified in policy and legislative documents, including a range of initiatives launched by the European Commission: *Towards an urban agenda in the European Union* (COM(97) 197, final, 06.05.97) and *Sustainable Urban Development in the European Union: A Framework for Action* (COM(1998) 605 final, 28.10.98); the Vienna Urban Forum (1998), the urban conference held under the French Presidency in November 2000 and the Urban Forum to be held under the Swedish Presidency in May 2001; initiatives on developing sustainable cities such as those enshrined in the report on *European Sustainable Cities* (European Commission, 1996a); Community Initiatives such as URBAN and the newly launched URBAN II; the increased emphasis on urban areas in Objective 1 and 2 areas under the new Structural Fund (2000-2006) as well as other inter-governmental initiatives such as the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP).

In all of these cases there is a strong emphasis on the need to develop new forms of urban governance and associated forms of decision making (e.g. multi-sectoral urban regeneration partnerships) at local level working closely with EU, national, regional and local institutions/organisations. There is also a growing acknowledgement that protecting and

improving the environment in European Cities should be given a higher priority and to be more closely integrated with other policies in including those relating to air quality.

Again the importance of developing an integrated approach at local level is increasingly recognised (European Commission 1996a, 1997a and 1998; ESDP, 1999;). These developments also have important implications for wider developments in European Governance as noted in the Commission's White Paper on European Governance – *Enhancing democracy in the European Union* (European Commission, 2000).

Bringing together all the different actors from the research community, those engaged in policy development and practice and from some accession states will create a unique network. The 'urban dialogue' thereby established will enable us to make a significant contribution to the development of new modes of governance and decision making that will enhance citizen participation, address complex multi-dimensional urban problems in an integrated manner, improve the quality of urban life and elaborate visions for the future development of European cities.

All of the issues outlined in the previous paragraphs affect, to varying degrees, all European states and this means that there is a need to develop a *pan-European* response. Indeed this has been acknowledged by the Commission through initiatives addressing environmental, urban and spatial issues (e.g. the European Spatial Development Perspective). Moreover, it is widely recognised by the Commission, academics, national and local policy makers that the creation of new forms of governance and decision making are crucial elements in developing policies to address these problems. By bringing together the experiences of 19 European states, reflecting upon these experiences and considering future possibilities for action the Network will promote cross-national policy learning, reflection on the processes of governance and the identification of best practice.

Furthermore, it is increasingly being recognised that for these developments to succeed there needs to be effective citizen participation. Citizen participation not only enhances the legitimacy of these approaches but also increases their efficiency and effectiveness by ensuring that the problems that affect people on a daily basis are also addressed. Thus by bringing together all of the relevant actors the Thematic Network will add value to existing European debates and carry forward the debates about current and future opportunities and threats facing European cities.

Contribution to Community Social Objectives

INTEGAIRE by its nature has an indirect an impact on Community social objectives, and is furthermore a strategic project with tremendous potential as follows:

- identifies practices in the area of urban governance, which have proven and particularly strong contributions to social objectives, such as positive environmental impacts and improved quality of life;
- makes concrete recommendations on the means by which these practices can be implemented all over Europe;
- builds its recommendations on a multi-layered consensus in order to enhance quality and acceptance by relevant actors;

Figure 1 illustrates, how INTEGAIRE can contribute indirectly, but considerably to the improvement and promotion of sustainable urban governance in Europe, which contributes to the achievement of Community social objectives.

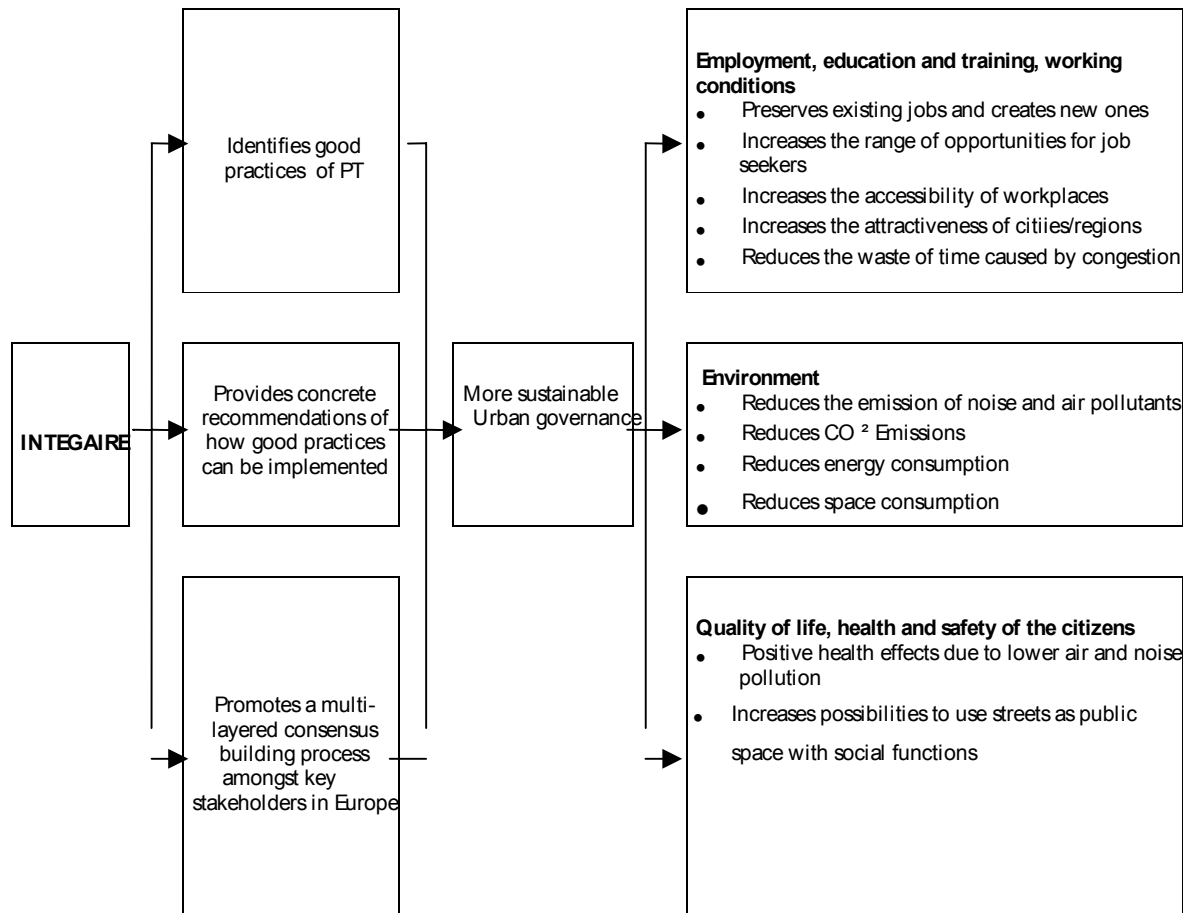


Figure 1. INTEGAIRE and its contributions to Community Social objectives.

Sustainable Urban Governance and the Social Dimension

Considerable attention has, quite rightly, been given to issues of unemployment, industrial decline, restructuring, competitiveness and growth in urban areas less emphasis has been placed on the environment, citizen empowerment and urban governance despite the fact that these issues are often most pressing in urban areas.

Moreover, there has been a tendency to address these issues in isolation as if these problems can be solved in isolation from one another. For instance if the competitiveness of cities is improved at the expense of the environment then this will impact upon the well-being and quality of life of urban citizens.

Thus there is an urgent need to develop new modes of governance and policies that allow these problems to be addressed in an integrated and holistic fashion today and in the future. It is in this spirit that the Commission has sought to elaborate a 'joined-up' approach in a range of documents and policies. For example, in *Sustainable Urban Development in the European Union: A Framework for Action* (European Commission, 1998) identified the following key, interdependent, themes considered necessary for a coherent approach to urban problems:

- strengthening economic prosperity and employment in towns and cities;
- promoting equality, social inclusion and regeneration in urban areas;
- protecting and improving the urban environment: towards local and global sustainability;

-contributing to good governance and local empowerment (Commission of the European Communities, 1998, pp5-6).

These themes must be pursued in an integrated way in order to ensure that a consistent approach is developed to tackle the problems currently facing Europe's urban areas. Moreover, it is equally important that everyone is able to participate in the benefits of economic development and social progress whilst at the same time preserving the urban environment. Such an approach is essential if the quality of life of all urban citizens is to be improved.

The current proposal seeks to operate within the spirit of these objectives and:

- to identify and understand examples of existing policies that have been successful and those that have not;
- to identify forms of governance and decision making that enable an integrated and holistic approach to be adopted;
- to identify ways in which citizens may actively be engaged in urban governance and policy making;
- to make proposals for the development of new policies and modes of governance to meet the challenges currently facing European cities.
- to consider how European cities are likely to develop in the future and to elaborate responses and visions for their future development consistent with the European Social Model and its future development.

Economic development and S&T objectives

INTEGAIRE has several *exploitation impacts* in terms of sustainable urban governance and the improvement of the quality of life in urban areas. INTEGAIRE will create a general framework in which all the principal stakeholders will be able to use the project results as a solid base to understand better their work environment and consequently to develop new potential. Thereby also fulfilling their own objectives and reaching a joint vision of a more sustainable urban system, INTEGAIRE contains the potential *for internal and external replication, redeployment and reuse of its own results*.

Authorities will gain a better understanding of the current key challenges in integrated and sustainable urban governance focusing more on the identified priority domains, removing institutional barriers and creating policies capable of responding more effectively to the need for sustainable urban futures. Urban managers could have a comprehensive and clear vision of the current EU-wide "state of the art" and "good practice" examples of research and demonstration work in the different priority domains.

INTEGAIRE is expected to have a major impact on the local and regional public practice and planning. At the outset, INTEGAIRE experts will detail the scope of primary target areas and identify primary target groups to exploit the results and focus the outreach strategy. These will include local and regional authorities, European and national policy makers, international organisations and researchers.

Targeting project results and establishing an effective dissemination plan will ensure that the exploitation objectives of this thematic network are achieved. All dissemination activities will be public, unless a stakeholder has a specific activity, the confidentiality of which will be

determined on a case-by-case basis. Public relations activities will be user-driven and channels will be established to key target groups (city authorities, industry, policy-makers, users etc). Leaflets, brochures and proceedings containing information on project progress, events and proceedings will be produced. A dissemination strategy, coherent with the work schedule of the different working groups and work packages will be included in the Inception Report.

Furthermore, the INTEGAIRE website will play an important role in this regard providing access to internet users to decision-making information intended to support policy-makers, providers and users in line with the European's Commission's commitment to sustainable urban governance.

The website will present case studies, including best practice examples, making them publicly available in 2 languages, it will assist in raising awareness and understanding at the local level of policies and tools used to implement sustainable solutions and establish a framework for networking between local government officials. The website will be a key dissemination instrument of the project. It will host a dedicated interactive website for internal project management (passworded) and external project work and outreach. Here information on the project progress and topical issues will be available. The web will also provide a source of best practice case studies provided by the network experts. A discussion forum and helpdesk will also be available for the network through the web.

Geographically, the network will welcome participants from the European Union and Central and Eastern European States. Materials will be produced in English, French and German for general dissemination activities and the website will contain information in a further two languages, to be decided by the project team in consultation with the European Commission.

As a high profile initiative, INTEGAIRE will hold three public workshops and one final Conference, targeting a wide ranging group of experts and practitioners. The final Conference event will be held as a validation exercise and platform for the exchange of experience and best practice by local and regional authorities, and other relevant actors. This should allow for a widespread impact of the key findings and to further support consensus building. The Consortium will support the targeting of a good balance of operators and local and regional authorities throughout Europe and beyond. This will be particularly important for channelling dissemination, feedback and exploitation and help build a wider consensus, at political level, for establishing future policy options.

Furthermore, INTEGAIRE aims to raise issues on local and regional sustainable urban governance by attending key conferences and issuing press releases. INTEGAIRE would also involve outreach to the European Commission and the Parliament (including inter alia DG TREN, Environment, Research, information Society and Industry) and would hope to contribute to the debate on policy issues of urban and regional urban governance in the wider European policy arena.

Economic Growth

Through INTEGAIRE stakeholders will get consolidated project results, they will have opportunities to discuss the outcomes of the WP's and reach consensus about the way forward. This will result in better knowledge and insight in the mechanisms of public governance. This in turn forms a better basis for authorities to improve outputs and raise the quality of urban life as well as the economic vitality. Here again the WG's and plenary

governance. This in turn forms a better basis for authorities to improve outputs and raise the quality of urban life as well as the economic vitality. Here again the WG's and plenary sessions are the main events. In addition to that, there is also need for more intensive contact with the local/regional authorities. Here the networks will give excellent possibilities.

Scientific and Technological prospects

INTEGAIRE will provide a platform for formulating strategies for the future. It is in that connection seen as important by authorities and that all stakeholders, themselves, define and perform or take parts in RTD projects based on their own premises and context. INTEGAIRE actors will provide a forum that will secure strong political commitment to urban governance innovation as well as underlining the need for sound technical leadership. It is intended that the network participants will provide a baseline approach/strategy to deploying innovative techniques. They should also be able to demonstrate how new technologies can benefit local and regional areas via case studies. Further, participants will endeavour to evolve methods e.g. systems specification and procurement, innovative finance, Public- Private Partnerships etc and evaluate frameworks, including system architectures, inter-agency co-operation etc. It is hoped that through the multi-level pan- European representation in the network, a sound picture of the technical and political state of the art in urban governance innovation will be produced on which to base recommendations for future practice. It is also hoped that members of the network, will be able to benefit from the costly experience gained in some other European States.

Technology implementation plan

As the project concerns a Thematic Network, it will not carry out patentable research as such. However, the consortium aims to ensure that the exchange of expertise and know how, stimulated by the project will continue to take place after the project funding comes to an end.

This will, first of all, be done through the continued maintenance and updating of the project Internet based information and dissemination tool after the completion of the project. The Internet site will be an integral part of the EUROCITIES Internet home pages and as such will continue with the continuation of the association.

Furthermore, the project will link closely with ongoing work in the framework of several European Networks of local and regional authorities. With the help of this project, these contacts and cooperations will be lifted to a more efficient and productive level. As an example from the local authority, i.e., user perspective, air quality groups exist within the Car Free Cities network, The Union of Baltic Cities and EUROCITIES alike. These currently do not cooperate at sufficient level to be able to produce important common outputs of use for European policy development. Likewise, each of these develops expertise on air quality related issues such as planning, traffic related measures and other actions. The project will allow better exchange of experiences and good practices along these actors thereby facilitating greater and more efficient development of know how in the field. An important output of the project is the establishment of lasting contacts and working relations between the scientific community and the urban experts and decision makers. The continuation of the working relation thus established will be assured through the deeper integration of the projects outcomes into the general work of various existing bodies such as the SATURN network of air quality scientists and the Air Quality policy Working Group within the EUROCITIES Environment Committee.

The consortium

The quality of the work to be undertaken by the INTEGAIRE network depends heavily on the actors involved. Therefore, when forming the consortium it was considered necessary to combine organisations playing leading roles in the development of both air quality and urban governance issues in Europe. The requirements were that they should offer an in depth understanding of the knowledge and experience in the relevant fields, and be able to provide cutting edge research and analysis on all aspects. At the same time the consortium should also offer a balanced pan-European representation from the member states of Europe. As a result the consortium would be competent in relation to both air quality and governance research and development at the national level, as well as the cultural and other local differences affecting these matters.

The INTEGAIRE Network will be co-ordinated by Eurocities, Brussels the pan European city network which is a European leader in promoting sustainable urban development and representing the majority of major cities throughout Europe. With its long tradition of providing a forum for key actors in urban governance, Eurocities ensures that the INTEGAIRE Network acts as a truly robust, comprehensive and representative platform.

The other principal partners within the consortium include the University of the West of England, Bristol, TNO, The Netherlands, the major multi disciplinary Research Centre, ENEA, Italy, the interdisciplinary research centre with a focus on energy and environmental issues, NILU, the Norwegian air quality research facility, the UBC, the union of Baltic Cities, the ACCESS network and finally the city of Birmingham, UK which as the second largest city of UK and the largest administrative Council brings a wealth of experience on issues concerning urban governance to the network partnership. In addition the consortium is complemented by wide ranging pan European representation of major cities including: Athens, Bristol, Duesseldorf, Goteborg, Leipzig, Malmo, Seville, and Venice.

An expert group has been set up to be consulted for technical advice during the project. The group will consist of expert individuals from different angles and representatives from the academic, European and urban level. These are: (i) Academic: Professor Nicolas Moussiopoulos – Professor at the University of Thessaloniki; Professor Colin Fudge – Dean of the Faculty for the Built Environment, University of the West of England; (ii) CEC: Mr Peter Wicks – Responsible officer within the European Commission for the Clean Air For Europe Initiative; and (iii) Cities: Mr Peter Dickinson – City of Leeds & President of The Network for a new Mobility Culture – ACCESS; Mr Teemu Virtanen – City of Helsinki – Air quality department and Mr Antonio Mazzon – City of Palermo air quality unit.

This expert group will be asked to comment on the Working Group reports and the Interim and final reports drafted in the framework of the project before these are published. The group will meet once every year in conjunction with the Steering Committee meeting.

Furthermore, they will have a key role in helping to identify organisations and individuals to be invited to the annual open Workshops, defining the dissemination process i.e. which individuals and organisations to target, and in offering general advice on the practicality of suggestions for new policy initiatives and institutional reforms development over the course of the project.

This project will last three years starting as from 1 March 2002.

Reference

European Environment Agency; Europe's environment at the turn of the century (1999)
(<http://reports.eea.eu.int/92-9157-202-0/en>).