

EU News Bulletin

The latest monthly EU funding opportunities, news, publications and events of relevance to Ireland's local and regional level

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FUNDING

Integrated & Sustainable Urban Development

The URBACT II programme has launched a call for proposals for the creation of 12 new Thematic Networks and 3 new Working Groups on integrated and sustainable urban development issues. In particular, this is aimed at supporting European cities in dealing with the challenges and consequences of either the economic crisis and climate change. Additionally, project proposals must address one of 16 Priority topics identified for this Call.

Projects approved will focus on fostering exchange and learning among cities and other urban players, capitalising on knowledge, and disseminating good practices. By setting up Local Support Groups, producing Local Action Plans, and through transnational networking, these projects will both impact local policies and link into the priorities of their current EU co-financed Regional Operational Programmes.

Deadline: 25 September
[Link](#)

Social Experimentation

The PROGRESS programme is providing €3.5 million for projects on "Social experimentation". This will finance approximately 10 transnational projects developing and evaluating innovative approaches in areas such as child poverty, active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market and improving the accessibility and quality of health care and long-term care services.

Deadline: 1 September
[Link](#)

Citizens decision-making through ICT

The Information & Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) has launched a call dedicated to 'eParticipation - empower and involve citizens in transparent decision making in the EU'. The overall aim is to address current challenges in policy making with ICT-based solutions by:

- Improving public administrations' efficiency and effectiveness and facilitating interaction with citizens and businesses;
- Opening up new market opportunities for innovative ICT based solutions for governments and administrations; and
- Strengthening and broadening citizens' participation in decision-making and contributing to better legislation through the use of innovative ICT based solutions.

Financed actions will include:

- Strengthening the further adoption of approaches on eProcurement and on eID management;
- Introduction of innovative services for socially disadvantaged citizens;
- a thematic network of stakeholders to share experiences and build consensus and guidelines on user-centred public e-services;

- the demonstration and adoption of tools for effective public debate and participation in decision-making (eParticipation).

Deadline: 23 September
[Link](#)

Innovation Management

A call is now open under Europe INNOVA on the development and testing of better services in support of innovation management. The main objectives are to secure the management of the IMP²rove online platform and related services and network and to promote their widest possible use by public innovation support providers. The call also aims to establish the European Innovation Management Academy, assuming the overall coordination of training activities and resulting in the improvement of the quality of innovation management consulting in Europe and lowering the costs for innovative SMEs. The maximum budget allocated for the operation is €2 million, with a Community co-financing rate of 65 per cent.

Deadline: 31 August
[Link](#)

Research, Policy and Practice

Research centres and Higher Education Institutions as well as Ministries of Education may benefit from funding to undertake projects aimed at promoting links between evidence-based analysis and the activities of policy makers and practitioners. The intention is to develop transnational 'knowledge brokerage' mechanisms which will make the results of research on education and training understandable and accessible and to bring research to the attention of decision-makers and implementers. In particular projects should focus on the priorities defined in the Commission Communication 'Updated strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training' and the New

Skills for New Jobs initiative. The budget of the call is €500,000 with co-financing up to 75%.

Deadline: 29 September
[Link](#)

Twinning

The 'Europe for Citizens' programme has or is about to open four separate calls

- One-off Twinning Exchanges (**Deadline: 1 September** - [Link](#))
- 2-year Networks of Twinned Local Authorities (**1 September** - [Link](#))
- Operating Grants for Think Tanks and European Civil Society Organisations (**15 October** - [Link](#) from mid-July)
- Innovative Actions to promote transnational mobility between civil society groups (**30 September** - [Link](#) from mid-July)

Other recent calls:

www.iro.ie/funding/news/funding_calls/

Partner Searches received by the IRO from other regions:

www.iro.ie/funding/news/partner_searches/

NEWS & POLICY

Biowaste directive to include Local Authorities' input

EU Member States have asked the European Commission to bring forward a proposal for a directive on biodegradable waste management, possibly by next year, following last December's Green Paper and consultative process on the issue. It is envisaged that the legislation would take account of waste prevention, separation of collection, quality assurance and traceability measures, as well as labeling and quality criteria for compost.

Currently biowaste (from food and gardens) constitutes up to 45% of municipal solid waste in Europe and, when sent to landfill, is a significant producer of harmful methane gas – a key contributor to the greenhouse effect. The EU Landfill Directive obliges Member States to reduce the amount of biowaste disposed of in this manner by 65% by 2016 compared to 1995 levels but does not set binding specifications on the appropriateness of alternative methods

which range from widely-used incineration to the more sustainable high recovery approaches. Now, with a standalone biowaste directive on the cards, Environment Ministers have asked the Commission to report in detail by the end of this year on its current impact assessment of the different policy options available and the views submitted by invited stakeholders.

The Ministers also stressed the need to take the experiences of local authorities and other local-level factors into account when determining which policy options to pursue. This will be especially important in reaching an EU-level compromise which will account adequately for all conditions at sub-national level. Taking a gradual approach towards legislating for the various elements of the future directive may be in order.

[Council conclusions](#)

Devolving responsibilities assists economic progress

'From Subsidiarity to Success: The impact of decentralisation on economic growth', an independent two-year pan-European study, commissioned by the Assembly of European Regions, has found that countries which balance the distribution of powers by devolving significant responsibilities from central government to other tiers are performing considerably better than highly centralised states at maximising the economic growth potential of their territories.

Part One of the study combines qualitative and quantitative analysis to produce a Decentralisation Index based on five indicators in order to ascertain the degree of devolution on a scale from 0 to 100. Of the 26 European countries surveyed, Switzerland (70) was found to be the most decentralised while Bulgaria (25) is the most centralised. Ireland, assessed in relation to the powers of local authorities, registers an overall 41, below the European average of 45. This includes relatively high scores for "Vertical" (50, ranked 9th) and "Financial" decentralisation (49, ranked 9th) as "both qualitative and quantitative (income and expenditures) indicators show a considerable degree of financial means in the regions."). By contrast, Ireland's devolution status is ranked much lower in terms of the "Administrative" (23, rank 21st) – "mainly due to a very low share of regional public sector employment"; "Functional" (33, ranked 20th); and "Political" (41, ranked 18th) indicators. A

clear imbalance of decision making (25) and implementing power (74) is also noted.

Part Two, investigates the impact that devolving power has upon economic variables such as GDP, growth and innovation output. It concludes, through employing extensive data and empirical analysis, that this approach is a key determinant of economic success, and offers evidence that national performance can be improved by providing regions with greater influence at national level, more decision-making independence, financial resources, and competences in recreation and culture, infrastructure, education and research, and health care.

[Link](#)

New microfinance fund for unemployed entrepreneurs

As of next year, the newly unemployed or workers at risk of redundancy will be able to avail of a fresh new start courtesy of up to €25,000 in seed corn loans and credit guarantees towards starting their own businesses. This follows a 2 July announcement of a joint European Commission - European Investment Bank (EIB) 'Progress Microfinance Facility'.

The scheme, which will operate on a pan-European basis without national allocations, will be especially targeted at young people and will also include support measures such as mentoring, training, coaching and business plan development. An initial €100 million is to be made available over a four-year period and this is expected, in turn, to be used to leverage a further €500 million worth of credit as well as creating a significant employment multiplier effect. The funding, reallocated from elsewhere within the EU Budget, is to be dispersed through banks and non-profit trusts in partnership with the EIB which has been attempting to extend lines of credit to various hard-hit industries and energy efficiency and research and development initiatives since the credit crisis began.

[Link](#)

Midland Region forms Cultural Heritage Network

The Midland Regional Authority is among the founder members of the European Cultural Tourism Network (ECTN), a newly-formed initiative to provide a platform for cooperation, shared research, and exchange of experience

opportunities among professionals and public bodies involved in tourism and cultural industries in different European regions. The network's establishment follows upon the core partners' involvement in an INTERREG 3C project to provide guidance towards best practice in the development, management and promotion of Cultural Tourism, based on case studies, research and experience. ECTN's areas of interest to date include training, better integration between the tourism and culture sectors, and providing coherent representation for the interests of cultural tourism in relations with the European Commission and other networks.

Network membership is open to other regions and organisations. ECTN's inaugural annual conference, 'Culture with a twist – new ways of thinking about cultural tourism', will take place in Turku, Finland on 23-24 September.

[Link](#)

EEA backs local role in tackling climate change

The European Environmental Agency (EEA), the body with responsibility for monitoring the state of Europe's environment, has emphasised that there cannot be a solution to climate change without the involvement of local governments. Speaking on 23 June at a seminar organised as part of EU Green Week by LG Action, the European local government networking and advocacy initiative on climate protection and sustainable energy, the Head of the agency's Air and Climate Change Programme Jeff Huntington outlined this level as being the most vital element in delivering the urgent constructive change envisaged by major international agreements.

In particular, he highlighted a series of key climate change areas in which the EEA regards local & regional actors as being best placed to act. In relation to mitigation he stressed energy efficiency in buildings, local energy generation, and appropriate planning and transportation decisions as being key while on adaptation, he underlined the potential for tapping into available expertise in the areas of engineering design and planning (e.g. water and sewage systems), and biodiversity and ecosystems protection.

The overall session, entitled 'Mobilising Local Authorities' called for action, inclusion and recognition of the role of local and regional governments in national climate strategies and plans for

this level to be provided with the resources and capacity from national government to act in accordance with its 'frontline' role.

[LG Action on Climate Change](#)

Sustainable Cities Framework

The EUROCITIES network has been appointed to help EU Member States and the European Commission develop a set of criteria for actions by which a "sustainable city" may be defined. Following the adoption of the Leipzig Charter for Sustainable Cities two years ago, Member States expressed an ambition to develop a tool to be used to implement the Charter's principles. While remaining adaptable to local circumstances, this attempt to agree on a common practical vision of the concept is intended to provide all EU cities with a reference point and a means by which to facilitate exchanges on effective ways of achieving sustainability.

The three main elements involved in the framework are:

- guiding cities in developing and/or assessing their own sustainability frameworks;
- good practice from cities having developed effective sustainable strategies; and
- qualitative and quantitative indicators to allow for a concrete assessment of cities' performances.

Concrete results of this work should be ready by 2011. A set of cities under the URBACT sustainable urban development exchange programme will test the outcomes in practice. The LC-FACIL working group will review the current status of implementation related to integrated sustainable urban development in terms of social (including integration, labour market, skills development); economical (including mobility); and environmental (including physical renewal) aspects. A common understanding about necessary tools for integrated urban development according to Leipzig will be established over the coming years. Membership remains open to cities with a definite interest in this area.

[Framework Working Group](#)

Emissions limits tightened & trading scheme consultation

EU Environment Ministers reached agreement on 25 June to tighten rules on the emission of harmful industrial

pollutants including sulphur and nitrogen compounds, dust particles, asbestos and heavy metal into the air, soil or water. The proposed legislation, brought forward by the European Commission in 2007, attempts to combine seven existing EU air pollution laws, including the directive on integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) and the Large Combustion Plants (LCP) Directive. It would require 52,000 industrial operators to obtain permits from national authorities to release designated pollutants.

The Ministers agreed to bring emission limits on LCPs such as power stations into line with state-of-the-art emission reduction technologies by 2016 and to fast track this stipulation for new installations - within two years of the entry into force of the directive. According to the Commission, tightening emission limits on LCPs alone, will reduce health costs by EUR7 billion and prevent 13,000 premature deaths every year. The directive now returns to the European Parliament for a second reading in the autumn.

[Council Conclusions](#)

Meanwhile, a public consultation on rules to govern the future auctioning of emission allowances under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) has been launched. The consultation (open until 3 August) forms part of the Commission's preparation for a Regulation on auctioning of allowances with respect to the third and later trading periods. In accordance with the revision of the Emissions Trading Directive agreed as part of the EU climate and energy package last December, the Commission must adopt a Regulation by June 2010 to ensure that auctioning is conducted in an open, transparent, harmonised and non-discriminatory manner.

[Consultation Climate and Energy Package](#)

Service Delivery – EU Court decision & Lisbon guarantees

A Court of Justice decision on 9 June has clarified that delivering public services through cooperation among local authorities/municipalities without private sector involvement does not require the issuing of a call for tender. This relates to a case brought by the European Commission against Germany after four district authorities near Hamburg concluded a 1995 contract with the city of Hamburg relating to collective

waste disposal in one of its incineration facilities.

The Commission had argued that the district authorities must be regarded as contracting authorities within the meaning of the public procurement directive (92/50/EEC), that the contract was for profit, and that therefore it required a public tendering procedure. However, the Court of Justice has ruled that the collective approach of the local authorities was established with the aim of ensuring that a necessary public interest task was carried out using their own resources in an appropriate manner and without recourse to outside entities. This ruling means that EU law does not require public authorities to use any particular legal form in order to jointly carry out their public service tasks - without in any way undermining the principal objective of the Community rules on public procurement. The decision is also in line with March's *European Charter on Local and Regional Services of General Interest* from the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) in that it stresses the primacy of these levels being freely allowed to organise service delivery efficiently and in the interest of citizens and business.

Coincidentally, Annex 2 of Ireland's recently secured set of guarantees on the Lisbon Treaty (the '*Solemn Declaration on Workers' Rights and Social Policy*') formally recognises, for the first time at European Council level, "as a shared value of the Union, the essential role and the wide discretion of national, regional and local authorities in providing, commissioning and organising services of general economic interest as closely as possible to the needs of the users... [without in any way affecting] the competence of member states to provide, commission and organise non-economic services of general interest."

[Judgement](#)
[CEMR Charter](#)
[Lisbon Guarantees](#)

Biodiversity concerns

The findings of last year's European Commission report on the implementation of the EU's Biodiversity Action Plan revealed that the Union is far from meeting its target of halting biodiversity decline by 2010 and EU Environment Ministers, at their 25 June Council meeting, discussed with concern, the plan's mid-term assessment.

In particular, Ministers have now suggested examining the impact of EU rural development and fisheries policies on biodiversity. This is in line with recent calls from the European Environment Agency (EEA) reiterating the need for biodiversity protection measures to be integrated into agricultural, forestry and fisheries policies. The EEA has also been emphasizing the need for a move towards better "ecosystem accounting" to indicate the true value of the natural capital depleted by economic activity in the pricing of goods and services. Ministers have now responded by suggesting that the worth of valuable resources and processes supplied by nature to society and the economy, such as clean drinking water and decomposition of waste ("ecosystem services"), need to be factored into national policies in order to appreciate the extent of the challenge biodiversity is facing. They have also suggested that greater analysis of the environmental impact of consumption of products including meat is necessary. Ministers are also proposing that an assessment of the effectiveness of the NATURA 2000 network of protected areas should take place.

Meanwhile, an EU strategy on invasive alien species (IAS) containing measures on prevention, early detection, warning and rapid response, monitoring and control, and restoration is to be prepared by 2010 on the basis of Commission proposals.

[Council Conclusions](#)
[Biodiversity Action Plan Progress Report](#)

Green housing plans setback

The Czech EU Presidency and the European Commission communicated a progress report on the revision of the largely unimplemented Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD) to EU ministers at their 12 June Council meeting. This is part of a wider energy efficiency package along with initiatives on energy labelling and tyre labelling directives as part of the drive to contribute to reaching the EU's target of using 20% less energy by 2020.

The report is broadly supportive of the proposals amended by the European Parliament's first-reading position from April which include calls for Member States to set percentages for a minimum share of buildings to be energy neutral by 2015 and the installation of smart metres in all new and renovated buildings. However, it reflects concerns expressed by several Member States over the

likelihood of a significantly increased administrative burden, subsidiarity considerations (i.e. whether this issue should be legislated for at EU level), cost-efficiency, certification, property owners being discouraged to carry out renovations as a result of stricter rules, adaptability to different national circumstances and policies to promote energy efficiency, the proposed lowering of the size threshold for subjecting existing buildings to minimum requirements to 250 m², and the proposal that all new buildings should produce at least as much renewable energy on-site as they consume by 2019.

[Progress Report](#)
[Proposed Directive](#)

Parental leave agreement

Social Partners at European level reached an agreement on 18 June on the revision of the 1995 Framework Agreement on parental leave which paved the way for the subsequent directive. Among the new conditions specified in the new agreement is an increase in the duration of leave from three to four months; its application to all workers, regardless of their contractual arrangements; greater protection measures; and more flexible terms and conditions for new parents upon their return to work. Following this breakthrough, the Commission is expected to publish a proposal over the summer for a directive to be considered by the Council.

[Link](#)

INTERREG IVC approvals delayed and future strategy

Due to the high number of applicants (almost 500 projects) received in response to the second call for proposals which closed at the end of January, the INTERREG IVC Secretariat has announced that the Monitoring Committee meeting has now been postponed until 4–6 November.

Meanwhile the Monitoring Committee agreed a strategy for the third, and possibly final, call for proposals at its most recent meeting in Prague. A two-step package with different calls to be applied for Capitalisation projects (i.e. preparing the transfer of good practices into regional operational programmes, with assistance from the European Commission) projects and Regional Initiative projects (i.e. 'classic' Interreg-style). The Capitalisation call will be

opened by the end of this year while the Regional Initiative call must wait for a programme level analysis of the projects approved under the first and second calls, and their geographical and thematic spread. The list of 35 approved projects from the first round are now available online.

[Two-step strategy](#)

EU Enterprise Awards 2010

The 2010 European Enterprise Awards, to recognise excellence in business and entrepreneurship promotion are seeking nominations across five categories: 1) Promoting the entrepreneurial spirit; 2) Investing in skills; 3) Improving the business environment; 4) Supporting the internationalisation of business; and 5) Responsible and inclusive entrepreneurship. Participation is open to national, regional or local authorities or public-private partnerships having been pre-selected at national level.

[Link](#)

Contact: Gillian.Slattery@enterprise-ireland.com

Third-Level Research Agreement in BMW Region

The development of research and innovation across the Border, Midland and Western (BMW) Region has received a timely boost with the 17 June signing of a Collaborative Research and Innovation Strategy by the heads of all third-level institutions in the region. The joint initiative combines the individual strengths of NUI Galway, the institutes of technology in Athlone, Dundalk, Galway-Mayo, Letterkenny and Sligo, and St. Angela's College, Sligo and identifies a number of research areas where collaboration will take place, including biomedical science and engineering; environmental science; health services research; marine and energy; food and agriculture; socio-economic sciences and humanities; social entrepreneurship; and software development and applications.

The Regional Assembly has highlighted the lack of public funding awarded to the institutes in the BMW Region under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL) and Science Foundation Ireland programmes and has raised this issue at meetings with An Taoiseach, the Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation and the Chief Science Adviser. However, one of the priorities under the EU co-financed BMW Regional Operational Programme 2007-

2013 is to enhance regional research, innovation and ICT infrastructure and capacity. This focus arises from the Regional Assembly's 2004 *Audit of Innovation* report which identified an innovation deficit and inadequate entrepreneurial character when compared to the Southern and Eastern Region. This agreement also tallies with the vision set out in the Assembly's *Regional Foresight 2005-2025* exercise of an innovative, knowledge-based and competitive BMW Region.

[Link](#)

2011 Year of Volunteering

The European Commission has officially published a proposal to declare 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering. 4 key objectives have been set out for volunteering as an activity in the 3 June document: working towards enabling and facilitating the environment; empowering organisations and improving quality; rewarding and recognizing activities; and raising awareness of its value and importance. The total budget dedicated to these activities is expected to be approximately €6 million which will fund awareness raising campaigns, conferences, seminars, exchange of best practices and publications. An additional €2 million will be available for preparatory activities in the years leading up to 2013. The Member States and the European Parliament are expected to endorse this proposal by early next year.

Looking further ahead, a Commission consultation, with a 31 July deadline, is underway on an initial proposal for designating 2012 as the European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity. The current concept deals *inter alia* with the threats and opportunities of ageing; necessary policy measures; and the role of the EU in these fields.

[2011](#)
[2012](#)

Creative and Innovative Regions report

The 6th Progress Report on Economic and Social Cohesion – a key milestone in the wider debate on the future Cohesion Policy – was adopted by the Commission on 25 June and takes as its central theme how creativity and innovation can boost regional development.

The report finds that more developed EU regions tend to score well on most creativity and innovation indicators, such

as high-technology, their attractiveness to “core creative class” professionals (e.g. engineers, writers, architects, scientists, professors and artists) who tend to generate more ideas and are more likely to set up new companies, products and services; R&D; and human capital intensity. Nonetheless, the EU's less developed regions are generally displaying impressive ‘catch-up’ in terms of productivity growth. A series of factsheets illustrate and analyse the key indicators. The report also includes a short summary of responses received to the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion and will feed into the Fifth Cohesion Report on Economic and Social Cohesion, due for publication in autumn 2010, where the Commission is expected to outline its proposals for Cohesion Policy and the Structural Funds post-2013.

[Report](#)

Open Days now open

Registration for the 2009 edition of the Open Days - European Week of Regions and Cities to be held in Brussels from 5-8 October is now open. A draft programme is also available.

This year, the Irish Regions Office is involved in the Atlantic Alliance consortium which will organise a seminar on future prospects for cooperative activities in the wider Atlantic space.

[Link](#)

Energy Efficiency Action Plan consultation

The 2006-2012 Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (EEAP) to boost the achievement of Europe's substantial cost-effective energy savings potential and a target of 20% reduced energy consumption has reached its mid-term phase.

A major review to evaluate its effectiveness and results to date is scheduled to take place in 2009 and the Commission has launched an online consultation of interested parties as a key element of this. The exercise will remain open until 3 August in a bid to identify how best the EU may identify and initiate improved policy actions and measures which contribute to reaching its energy saving targets.

[Link](#)

Future Transport

CORDIS, the EU Research and Development Information Service, has recently launched its new online Transport service with extensive information on all matters relating to the Transport theme of the Seventh Research Framework Programme and its aim to develop safer, greener and smarter transport systems for Europe that will benefit citizens, respect the environment, and increase the competitiveness of industries in the global market. This service includes latest developments, events and funding opportunities plus a 'find a project' database.

Meanwhile, the European Commission is surveying opinions on the CIVITAS Initiative and the needs of cities to achieve more sustainable, clean and energy efficient urban transport systems. Results of the survey will be summarised in a recommendation report which should influence the future supportive role to be played by the Commission in terms of developing integrated policy and technology measures and funding mechanisms.

[FP7 Survey](#)

Baltic Sea Strategy launched

The European Commission adopted and launched the 'EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region' on 10 June. This constitutes the first such strategy to range across several EU policy fields and to be applied at a 'macro-region' level. The Strategy along with its accompanying Action Plan will aim to address four priority areas: environmental sustainability; prosperity; accessibility and attractiveness; and safety and security. This approach has sparked interest in other sea basins including the Irish Sea and Atlantic Area.

The added European value is that of improving cooperation among stakeholders in the eight Baltic Member States through instruments such as the Structural Funds to finance the Action Plan's 80 flagship projects and through monitoring and evaluation of their progress and implementation.

The Commission DG for Maritime Affairs has also published documentation on the presentations delivered and workshops held at the European Maritime Day in Rome on 18–20 May.

[Baltic Sea Strategy](#)
[Maritime Day](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Quality of life report on city/town challenges

'Ensuring Quality of Life in Europe's Cities and Towns', a European Environmental Agency (EEA) report raises awareness about the various perspectives and perceptions of quality of life, focusing specifically on urban areas. The authors also stress the challenges ahead and how the needs of all social groups must be assessed and met while taking sustainability and the environment into account. The document reveals ideas on how to meet the challenges that lie ahead suggesting that "local city based programmes, policies and projects remain key to delivering the required action. Urban areas have the responsibility to regulate and manage urban policy and effective planning strategies in the interests of the local population".

[Link](#)

EVENTS

On request and whenever possible, IRO staff can attend meetings and seminars in Brussels on behalf of local & regional authorities.

15-18 July, Liverpool Planning

The 23rd Congress of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) – 'Why can't the future be more like the past?' – will reflect upon the history of planning and planning education over the last century and on how the lessons from the past can be used to deal with the many challenges and opportunities facing planning and planners in the future. Particular focus will be placed on Liverpool's regeneration and building on the 2008 European Capital of Culture.

[Link](#)

16 July, Brussels Landfill

The European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public services (CEEP) and the Committee of the Regions will organise a conference to discuss what the forthcoming compulsory compliance with the landfill directive is

likely to mean to local authorities and public bodies operating existing sites

[Link](#)

31 August-4 September, France Sustainable urban development

The International Urban Development Association (INTA) Summer Course 2009 will be held in St-Quentin-en-Yvelines (France). This course is designed to enhance participants' understanding of the challenges of urban development in the modern world and is aimed at experienced practitioners who wish to broaden their skills by considering international examples. The main themes addressed will be:

- Key factors of sustainability;
- Public-Private partnership for development funding;
- Creating and integrated city.

[Link](#)

7-8 September, Brussels Urban Transport

The *Green Streets* conference, supported by EUROCITIES and the Committee of the Regions, will bring together representatives from many European regional authorities and Commission project leaders to

- discuss the transport challenges facing Europe's urban spaces;
- provide practical information about funding sources, suppliers and policy instruments;
- help develop greener, more sustainable transport networks.

[Link](#)

Irish Regions
Brussels Office
Oifig Ríocht na hÉireann, An Bhrúxail

*Working for Ireland's
local and regional levels in Europe*

Rond-Point Schuman, 11
B-1040 Brussels

www.iro.ie

Robert Collins Head of Office robert.collins@iro.ie	Ronan Gingles EU Programmes & Communications ronan.gingles@iro.ie
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Tel: +32 2 2331122 Tel: +32 2 2331120
GSM: +32 498120821 GSM: +32 493203666

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