

**PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET  
(DRAFT)**

**Name of the Partnership/Initiative**

Regional Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaigns promoting local Agenda 21

**Expected date of initiation:** 01.01.2003

**Expected date of completion:** 31.12.2012

**Partners Involved :**

- The European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign (hereafter described as ESCTC), through its 10 associations and networks of local authorities<sup>1</sup> (several of them having a number of members and activities outside of Europe) and its office (ESCTC Office).
- Non-European associations and networks of local authorities, NGOs, etc. (to be identified as part of the initiation phase).
- Individual European cities (Hannover, Copenhagen, Malmö, Barcelona, ...)
- Individual non-European cities (to be mobilised through the ESCTC associations and networks or directly at the World Summit on Sustainable Development-WSSD).
- National and regional local authority networks active in the field of Local Agenda 21 (LA 21).

This initiative is an open invitation to the partners identified above to participate in the partnership. Letters of intent to be part of the partnership have been received from all associations and networks engaged in the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign, plus the cities of Barcelona, Malmö, Hannover and the Italian LA21 association.

*Lead Partner:*

- European Commission, Directorate General Environment

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**Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative**

Overall objective:

Assist local authorities outside of Europe to take practical steps towards achieving sustainable local development with a focus on the urban context (cities and towns). This would be achieved, for example, through the delivery of support to the preparation and implementation of Local Agenda 21 (LA 21) plans. The major objectives are to:

- a) Promote and support local sustainable development
- b) Promote and strengthen local governance for the delivery of local sustainable development and the increased participation of stakeholders
- c) Exchange knowledge and technology experiences

Immediate objectives:

The immediate objective is to create and support appropriate systems in the regions to foster

<sup>1</sup> Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling, Klima Bündnis-Climate Alliance, Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Energie-Cités, Eurocities, International Council for Local Environment Initiatives, Medcities, Union of the Baltic Cities, World Federation of United Towns, World Health Organisation – Healthy Cities.

fruitful partnerships between local authorities and their associations/networks for the delivery of sustainable development that will meet local needs and requirements within a given region. Local and regional partners will jointly identify and define these priority needs and will work together for developing a commitment charter, which could be inspired by the Aalborg Charter, which is the founding document of the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign.

At this initial stage, it is foreseen that following appropriate scoping and assessment, regional entities (hereafter called “Regional Campaign Offices”) will be created in two pilot regions outside of Europe. It is suggested that at least one of these pilot regions should be located in Africa. The interest manifested by local authorities in Johannesburg and immediately after the WSSD to actively participate in this initiative will be a decisive factor for the delimitation of a pilot region.

The functioning and set-up of the small Regional Campaign Offices will be developed and adjusted to ensure they can address local needs and conditions. The Regional Campaign Offices will support/facilitate networking between cities and towns within their own region and promote good governance principles regarding participation of stakeholders, etc. They will also assist with creating co-operation and exchanges on three levels i.e.

- Between local communities, cities and towns.
- Between local authority associations and networks, and
- Between Regional Campaign Offices (including the ESCTC Office),

A major component of all these exchanges will relate to reinforcing capacity at the local level.

Without pre-empting the specific results/findings of the scoping and assessment exercises which will be used to help determine local needs and priorities jointly identified by the partners, the following five general functions are foreseen for the Regional Campaign Offices:

***A) Support/develop and co-ordinate regional networking between cities and towns and their associations and networks and other relevant partners***

***B) Facilitate and develop networking/assistance/exchanges between cities and towns and their associations and networks and other relevant partners in the pilot regions and their counterparts in other regions, in particular with partners in Europe, most notably the ESCTC***

***C) Organise, promote and actively participate in regional or sub-regional events promoting sustainable local development***

***D) Constitute a knowledge base on sustainable local development that cities and towns and their associations and networks, could consult in relation to technical, financial and administrative issues***

***E) Constitute a knowledge base on local conditions and actions in the region for Funding Programmes (EU programmes and others) that finance projects/actions within the field of urban development in the region***

It is most important that initial practical actions related to sustainable local development are included during the pilot phase. Based on general experience and in co-operation with their partners, the Regional Campaign Offices shall provide advice and directly respond to requests on technical issues related to sustainable local development, or direct those requiring advice to the most appropriate partner organisations that could help them. Advice could include provision of basic tools assisting with central themes of sustainable local development such as “how to assess

the current status of environmental problems?”, “how to determine which actions to undertake?”, “how to achieve better results through involvement of stakeholders?” etc. Local authorities and networks with relevant knowledge and experience (both from Europe and the pilot region) would participate in the development of such tools. This should enable the Regional Campaign Offices to demonstrate that they constitute a set-up and is part of a process that produces useful, tangible results in the cities and towns of the region.

*The whole objective behind the creation of the regional campaigns is to support the development of local agenda 21 processes and the creation of LA21 action plans. Local Agenda 21 was introduced in Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 and recognises that local authorities “as the level of governance closest to the people” play “a vital role in educating, mobilising and responding to the public to promote sustainable development”. Therefore the LA21 process has a key role to play in the delivery of sustainable development at a local level. Equally, it will also be able to mobilise local communities and playing its part in helping to meet the goals of the millennium declaration.*

*The recent world-wide survey conducted by ICLEI shows that 6416 LA21 processes have been started around the world, 5,292 are within Europe. This Type 2 partnership is attempting to support the development of LA21s in other parts of the world over the next 10 year-period.*

### **Expected results:**

#### In the short term (24 months test phase):

- Results from the scoping and assessment processes in the form of a “findings report” (one for each pilot region) regarding the options for the establishment of Regional Campaign Offices and their activities,
- Organisation and hosting of regional conferences promoting sustainable local development in the two pilot regions as part of the launch of the Regional Campaign offices and their actions,
- Facilitation of a process leading to the preparation and adoption of regional charters for sustainable development similar to the Åalborg Charter,
- Establishment of fully operational Regional Campaign Offices in the two selected pilot regions.

#### In the long-term (10 years):

- Establishment and implementation of 1,800 LA 21 plans in developing countries during the coming decade (about one new LA 21 every second day). During the previous decade some 700 LA21s were established in developing countries.
- Increased number of high-quality and long-lasting exchange arrangements and partnerships between European cities and towns, local authority associations and networks and their counterparts in developing countries

### **Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:**

The formal establishment of the partnership described by this Type 2 document/agreement should be finalised by the end of 2002. It is foreseen that the establishment of the Regional Campaign Offices would proceed through a two-step approach where an initial pilot-phase would involve

the creation of two entities, one in each of the 2 pilot regions. Based on the experience of the pilot phase, the set-up could then gradually be expanded to other geographical regions. The choice of pilot regions would be included in the formal establishment.

The initial actions in the two pilot regions will start early 2003 with a detailed assessment of the local setting, its needs and priorities. Results from this scoping and assessment process will be published in “findings reports” (one for each pilot region). These reports will provide recommendations regarding the options for the establishment of Regional Campaign Offices (scoping and assessment finalised by October 2003). As part of this assessment process and as a launching tool, the organisation and hosting of regional conferences promoting sustainable local development is foreseen in the two pilot regions (2<sup>nd</sup> half 2003).

In the first half of 2004, an interim assessment of the pilot offices will be undertaken and the results of this assessment should enable two operational campaign offices to be in place at the end of the pilot phase on 31 December 2004.

### **Coordination and Implementation mechanism**

*Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.*

The partnership will continue to be developed jointly by all the partners that are listed at the beginning of this document and that agree to be involved in the initiative. For the Johannesburg meeting a detailed document describing the partnership, the assumed actions and roles of the different partners, etc. has been elaborated and many of the proposed partners have already signed a letter of intent confirming their commitment to continue and develop the partnership. In this document the different roles of the partners are described in general terms. Following the WSSD, a series of meetings are foreseen to elaborate all details and arrive at the signature of a formal agreement to implement the pilot phase. The responsibilities and roles of each of the partners in the implementation of the pilots will be defined as part of the agreement.

The ESCTC Office would play a key supporting role in the establishment of the Regional Campaign Offices. Whilst the ESCTC Office does not have a command and control function, it will play a key co-ordinating role within the development of the overall partnership and the establishment of the regional entities. This will be undertaken with the support of the ESCTC associations and networks and individual partner cities and towns.

Likewise the ESCTC Office with the support of the associations and networks would co-ordinate the implementation of the initiative’s activities within Europe as well as the planned co-operation and exchanges between the European and non-European partners.

Projects/actions in the local and urban development field carried out under existing funding facilities (within or outside the EU) would benefit from the knowledge base, the networking, etc. of these Regional Campaign Offices for the conception and implementation of programme as well as individual projects.

It is proposed that a Steering Board, with representatives from all the partners involved, will be established to take on a co-ordinating role. This Steering Board will not be responsible for the implementation of the pilot projects but rather focus on overall co-ordination and development of the concept.

### **Arrangements for funding**

*Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organisation(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)*

The partners will seek funding on an ongoing basis. However, the European Commission, (DG Environment), will provide support for the launching and take off of the pilot phase. At EU level, a series of financial instruments already exist to assist in partnership-based local and urban development. Ways and means will be further explored during the pilot phase to determine possible contributions of these instruments to the initiative.

The Regional Campaign Offices will from their outset develop an economic strategy preparing for their longer-term financial survival (after the end of the pilot phase). It is important that the possibility for this longer-term financial survival is allowed to determine the appropriate legal status enabling the Regional Campaign Offices to receive and freely dispose of funds (both from financing mechanisms and fees charged for assistance provided).

### **Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer**

*Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:*

The basis for this partnership is to support and facilitate access to information and exchanges of experiences on local authority level. Thus, the main objective is related to capacity building for staff on different levels in local authorities but also for local authority associations and networks. (exchanges on three levels, city/town level, regional campaign office level, Local authority network level).

The Regional Campaign Offices will assist local authorities, and other actors involved, in facilitating sustainable local development, in particular by supporting the LA 21 process. The existing, relatively flexible and informal structure of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign (ESCTC) will be used as a basic “idea” for the development of this Type 2 Partnership and the creation of Regional Campaigns Offices. The ESCTC Office being a focal point for the European Campaign, provides the mechanism to bring together the experiences of several local authority associations and networks operating in Europe within the field of sustainable local development. This co-operation has helped to channel and co-ordinate experiences, knowledge, etc.

The regional Campaign offices, constituting a knowledge base on local conditions, will be in a position to assist partners with information on suitable training facilities and courses offered by other institutions. It should be mentioned that coordination is foreseen in the capacity building and training field between this initiative and the UNITAR/UN-Habitat type 2 initiative “Strengthening of Local Capacities and Training for Sustainable Urbanization”.

A web-site providing information and disseminating results related to this initiative is currently being developed (<http://euronet.uwe.ac.uk/www.sustainable-cities-share.org/>). This site will also constitute an interactive tool where interested potential partners can find relevant information and manifest their interest to participate in the potential regional initiatives that are envisaged. The internet site and its contents will serve as a potential long-term forum or platform for the future regional campaigns and will be developed in a way that allows for its use in the future.

*Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).*

Although the initiative will not target technology transfer in particular, it is clear that the exchange of experiences and knowledge on local authority level also will involve technology experiences.

**Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any):**

It is clear that there are several other actions aiming at promoting/facilitating local sustainable development, governance issues, etc. on regional/global level. Thus, through the whole process of defining, establishing and implementing the Regional Campaign Offices and their actions, strong efforts will be made to avoid duplications and to link up with other relevant initiatives as and when appropriate. The fact that partners of this initiative are themselves key-players in the partnership – building process will facilitate co-ordination and integration of the forthcoming sustainable development activities at all levels.

**Monitoring Arrangements**

*Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:*

*(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)*

A monitoring and evaluation body (e.g. Steering Board) will monitor and evaluate progress in the implementation of the partnership initiative. An annual report will be prepared and made publicly available on the web-site. It is intended to integrate the reporting and follow-up of the actions of this initiative into the regular work of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign. Thus it will be integrated into their regular newsletters, etc. which can serve as a platform for wider discussion and feed-back.

**Other relevant information:**

Web-site (if available): <http://euronet.uwe.ac.uk/www.sustainable-cities-share.org/>

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