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Brief information on ENTRUST activities in 2002

Workpackage 1: Analysis and incorporation of existing experience and establishment of network had the following objectives:

1. To consolidate the network and establish networking routines and administrative procedures;
2. To analyse existing projects and produce cohesive set of detailed work themes avoiding overlaps;
3. To establish project web service for exchange of information between the mutual workshops and provide helpdesk for participants on project procedures.

The project participants have started the project by meeting in Lisbon in February 2002 and introducing participating cities, neighbourhoods and projects. In a common discussion, several subjects groups were agreed upon:

- Economic development and employment in deprived neighbourhoods
- Public and private funding of regeneration
- Institutional framework and sustainability
- Managing social change in the neighbourhoods and social networks
- Participation and local community
- Lifelong learning and regeneration
- Physical aspects of regeneration.

Each city team participated in an exercise, indicating to the other cities which experience they would like to share, when receiving visits, and what subjects they would like to be presented when visiting specific other cities.

In May-November 2002, the research teams from all cities visited all participating cities and neighbourhoods. In parallel, the research team of each city elaborated detailed research issues that they suggested to focus on in further collaboration.

During last visit, to Valletta, Malta, the joint research team divided into five workshops and prioritised the issues:

1. Nature, contents, typology of partnerships and their role in regeneration
2. Building capacity in the communities to participate
3. Ensuring private sector involvement
4. Approaches, problem definition, priorities and elements of regeneration, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation

Other issues discussed included: ensuring sustainability and continuity of urban regeneration process, mainstreaming successes of experiments and retaining flexibility of partnerships; role of public authorities in setting and operating public private partnerships; physical renewal, its interaction with other activities and its impacts on economic and social development; structural and institutional framework of regeneration; interaction between partnerships and other forms of

participation; cohesion of common European policy vs. National policy; How to deal with inconsistent policies at various levels?

The main challenges were to retain the interest of the cities and relevance of common research issues to each city but also covering the aspects interesting for the others, focussing presentations to reflect the dynamism and grounding them into the contexts of cities and national frameworks.

Finally, the heads of science from each city, coordinator and the Project Board met in Lisbon in January 2003 to finalise and approve the framework for finalising the case studies and research issues. This meeting was also used to revisit the cases in Lisbon, where the new city council has significantly strengthened the focus on urban regeneration and public-private partnerships.

The presentations of cases and research issues will take a starting point in the perspective of the neighbourhood, focussing on neighbourhoods regenerated through partnerships. The national contexts will only be presented in aspects relevant to the cases. In laying out the contents of the study, the narrative story will follow the internal logics of the case to retain the individuality of the cases.

While putting strong emphasis on the interests of each city, the impact of the knowledge acquired in the cross-visits was carried forward by allowing all cities to indicate which particular aspects of cases they would like to see and described in the presentations of each city.

The city teams will not elaborate the presentations in isolation – they have agreed to collaborate on certain issues, following the interests determined during the cross-visits.

The remaining challenge, apart of integration of experience, is the difference of cultural traditions in different regions and countries. Already at an early stage, the project exposed major differences in attitudes to regeneration. The project still has to determine how to properly expose these differences in the analysis.

The project participants will meet again in Dublin 27-28 of May, 2003 to review and integrate the presentations of the neighbourhoods and partnerships thereof. In this meeting, the researchers will start analysing the common denominators and local specifics of the cases. The work of the meeting will continue in Glasgow where specific issue and methodology workshops will be arranged.

The results of the analysis of the preconditions and best practice will be discussed in joint meeting in Berlin and Hamburg, September 21-24, 2003, and reports on Workpackages 2 and 3 will be finalised by December 2003.

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