

ABOUT

E-Polis was founded by 4 Green Members of the European Parliament in 2006: Gisela Kallenbach, Monica Frassoni, David Hammerstein-Mintz and Michael Cramer - all driven by the need to involve citizens in local decision-making and to promote sustainability in urban development.

E-Polis supports and inspires local initiatives and NGOs whose purpose is to promote sustainable development and participation of civil society in urban development processes. E-Polis aims to create and establish a European-wide network of such local initiatives/NGOs in order to share experiences and find partners for joint activities.

E-Polis launched with selected local initiatives/NGOs from different European countries. The activities stimulated by E-Polis cover a broad range of issues, although there is particular focus on activities raising environmental awareness and empowering citizens in local decision-making processes.

The main networking tool is the E-Polis website www.e-polis.info with a forum and a NGO data base, allowing to get in touch with persons and organisations that share the same idea: a better city is possible.

It is time to network!

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E-POLIS
EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE CITIES NETWORK

Italy

Rispescia, Circolo Festambiente

Secondary students from the Grosseto province, the biggest province in Tuscany, visited a technological exhibition by Legambiente, which explained how natural resources can be harnessed for heating, cooling and generating electricity. The shopping malls of the region also hosted a series of information campaigns on renewable energies.

Spain

Valencia, Coordinació acció i reflexió

This initiative aims to rescue houses under threat of demolition in the historic district "El Cabanyal". With the help of the Coordinació acció y reflexió, Valencian neighbourhood groups visited Hamburg-Ottensen in order to exchange experiences as previously, Hamburg-Ottensen had also been threatened by a similar development, but had been able to prevent this. The Valencian neighbourhood groups participated in a workshop (coordinated by Stadtteilarchiv HH-Ottensen) to outline tours in their own neighbourhoods in Valencia.

Las Palmas, Tierra Verde

This project aims to enhance the participation of local citizens in urban administration and politics. The NGO Tierra Verde provides information regarding citizens' participation rights and the possibilities for involvement. The campaign is publicised throughout the city with posters and flyers/leaflets. They also organise meetings with NGOs, neighbourhood associations, federations and youth associations, in order to facilitate the development of a series of citizen assemblies and the evolution of an informed social structure.



• Las Palmas

Germany

Leipzig, Stadtforum Leipzig

Stadtforum Leipzig is an alliance of various groups and associations in Leipzig. They support projects which aim to fight the decay of the city, for example where "interim" users (small citizen initiatives, artists, young people) live temporarily in "Waechter-Houses", old houses which have not been restored, in order to protect them from decay. Stadtforum Leipzig also established a "Gruenderzeit-museum" - a museum covering the period during which most of Leipzig's famous buildings were created and constructed - in order to raise awareness of these buildings and halt their destruction.

Poland

Torun, Foundation "Workshop for Sustainable Development"

During 2007, three conferences were held on the themes: "An environmentally friendly city", "The city of active society" and "Culture and tourism as factors for development". The aim was to initiate a debate amongst the citizens of Torun in preparation for Torun's application to become the European Capital of Culture in 2016 and to ensure sustainable development as well as initiate modern thinking about environment and society.

Czech Republic

Brno – vec verejna/ Brno – public affairs

The Junior Brno Pedestrian - How do kids see the towns? The initiative involved a photo exhibition and a map of the city from a children's point of view. This project aims at turning towns into children-friendly places and at improving the quality of public spaces – not only for children but also for disabled and senior citizens. Broad public involvement can help achieve this.

Prague, Arnika- Center for Citizens' Support

This project has three specific objectives. The first is to increase the level of public participation in decision-making and initiate public discussion on sustainable development strategies. The second is to prevent harmful development projects that could damage cultural heritage and/or destroy public space and greenery. Finally the project aims at enforcing sustainable transport solutions for Prague.

