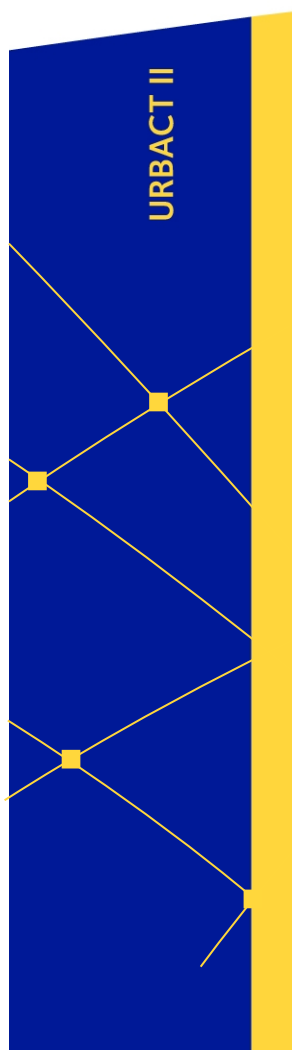




Poland URBACT National Dissemination Point Bi-Annual Report November 2010



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Cities of Voivodship of Silesia (south of Poland) in URBACT II Programme

By Karolina Kalaga, Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts

Located in the south of Poland, Voivodship of Silesia, is the most urbanized region of the country. Due to the fact that most of cities of the region were developed in the phase of rapid industrialization, many brownfields create significant barriers to future development. At the same time a large regional urban network (71 cities in total) and high level of urban population (totally 79%) creates huge potential. Therefore Voivodship of Silesia plays a very important role in the URBACT II Programme, as **the majority of thematic networks and working groups with participation of Polish cities is concentrated in this region**. However, some [Silesian cities](#) have been engaged already in URBACT I Programme (*Measure Support for cities*). Thus participation in URBACT II Programme has naturally become the next stage of this experience-sharing process.

Cities of Voivodship of Silesia have participated so far in 11 projects of the URBACT II Programme:

- Thematic network [CityRegion.Net](#) with participation of **Częstochowa**;
- Thematic network [Fin-Urb-Act](#) with participation of **Gliwice**;
- Thematic network [RegGov](#) with the participation of **Ruda Śląska**;
- Thematic network [Co-Net](#) with the participation of **Zabrze**;
- Thematic network [BRING UP](#) with the participation of **Sosnowiec**;
- Thematic network [ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK](#) with participation of **Radzionków**;
- Thematic network [EVUE](#) – Electric Vehicles in Urban Europe with participation of **Katowice**;
- Working group [LUMASEC](#) with participation of **Bytom**;
- Working group [LC-FACIL](#) with the participation of **Bytom**;
- Working group [Nodus](#) with the participation of **Katowice**;
- Working group [OP-ACT](#) with the participation of **Dąbrowa Górnicza**.

The Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts as a regional organization of cities and districts in this voivodship is one of the partners of the URBACT II National Dissemination Point. The Union encourages the cities of the Voivodship of Silesia to take active part in the URBACT II projects, e.g. through the [Urban Policy Working Group](#), operating within its structures and by maintaining close relationships with local authorities. The Union have been representing some cities in negotiation with prospective partners in initial stage of formation of networks and working groups.

Partners of the URBACT II National Dissemination Point in Poland are active in stimulating cities



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which have not participated in URBACT II Programme to find partners in other parts in

Europe in order to submit to applications for the last call.

Poland – leader in implementation of JESSICA EC Initiative

By Karolina Kalaga, Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts

In Poland the JESSICA Initiative is being implemented within the Regional Operational Programmes. The implementation process is being steered by the Ministry of Regional Development. The decision to join the JESSICA program is independently taken by Managing Authorities, i. e. individual voivodships. So far six Polish voivodships ([Wielkopolska](#), Western Pomerania, Pomerania, Lower Silesia, Małopolska and Silesia) have declared their participation in the JESSICA. However, the stage of the development process of the JESSICA is varied. The current leaders are the Western Pomerania and Voivodship of Wielkopolska. Voivodship of Wielkopolska started to implement the JESSICA as **the first EU region** (JESSICA Trust Fund Financing Agreement of April 29th 2009).

As Mr Grzegorz Potrzebowski, Head of the Regional Policy Department in the Marshall Office of the Wielkopolska Region has informed “Wielkopolska is well-known for its economical management and resourcefulness, and lately the creativity and inventive solutions in taking advantages of the EU funds have become brands of our region”. The amount of PLN 293.7 million (approx. **74 million EUR**) was earmarked for the financing of the revitalisation projects. It should be emphasized that Poznań, the capital city of Voivodship of Wielkopolska, is a partner of the [JESSICA 4 CITIES](#) project, implemented within the URBACT II Programme. Within the framework of the project, Poznań was obliged to submit an urban project that could be financed from the

JESSICA project funds as well as specific solutions necessary to implement the project in accordance with Polish and EU legal regulations.

[Voivodship of Western Pomerania](#) started to implement JESSICA as **the second voivodship in Poland and the fourth region in Europe** (JESSICA Trust Fund Financing Agreement of July 30th 2009). The voivodship has allotted nearly PLN 149 million (approx. **38 million EUR**) to implement this inventive financial mechanism and it contributed a lot to the popularisation of the JESSICA Initiative among other Polish regions.

[Voivodship of Silesia](#) has allotted nearly PLN 240 million (approx. **60 million EUR**) to implement JESSICA (JESSICA Trust Fund Financing Agreement of July 9th 2010). As announcement of the competition results falls on the turn of 2010 and 2011, The Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts, one of the partners of the URBACT II National Dissemination Point in Poland, has organized a [series of trainings and workshops](#) in the second half of 2010 to stimulate preparation of development projects. The purpose was to prepare representatives of local authorities for developing projects, that could be financed from the Urban Development Funds.

[Voivodship of Pomerania](#) was the fourth Polish region to decide to implement JESSICA Initiative (JESSICA Trust Fund Financing Agreement of July 12 2010). As a result the Pomeranian cities will



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receive over PLN 230 million (approx. **58 million EUR**) from the EU funds.

Two remaining voivodships interested in the JESSICA Initiative are at the early implementation stage of preparation of this mechanism.

Waste management – changes in legislation

By Anna Nadolna, International Cooperation, Association of Polish Cities

The municipalities will make sure, that their inhabitants pay for the waste management.

The ministry of environment, Mr Andrzej Kraszewski, claims that the revolution in the field of waste management will start on **January 1st 2011**. This is the first day of a new, updated law on maintaining the cleanliness in municipalities. What will change? The rules of collecting waste and the fees for everybody, who produces waste.

Waste responsibility

The Ministry wants inhabitants to pay not to private companies – as it has been so far, but to municipalities, which will, on an obligatory basis, take over the waste management issue. It will be the municipality, who - in public procurement procedure - will find the company collecting waste and taking care for segregation and recycling. Waste fees will also have to be calculated in a way, which allows for recycling of old electronic devices and construction rubble. Each municipality, bigger than 10 thousand inhabitants will be divided into areas, served by different companies.

Higher prices

According to the experts, the monthly waste fee may rise of ca. 200-300%. However, this case does

not have to appear in all municipalities. On the other hand, the waste fee right now is very low and still a lot of waste is thrown into forests, on roadsides, etc.

The new law suggests, that municipalities could bind the waste fee with the real estate tax, paid by all the inhabitants each year. Because the fee is compulsory, stable and not bound with the amount of waste, it is useless to throw wastes to forests. Thanks to the new solution, forests will be cleaner as well as the air, because burning waste in the heating burners will not be the case anymore.

Pioneer cities

The new law will place Poland together with other European countries where inhabitants pay their local governments for waste collection and clean municipality. The efficiency of this solution can be seen on the examples of pioneer Polish cities - [Legionowo](#) and [Pszczyna](#), which introduced this kind of waste management couple of years ago.

More:

[Article from “Rzeczpospolita” on the issue](#)

Meeting of the coordinators of Polish URBACT projects, Katowice-Nikiszowiec, 7-8 October 2010

By Anna Nadolna, International Cooperation, Association of Polish Cities

On 7th and 8th of October all partners of [National Dissemination Point Poland](#) – Association of Polish Cities, Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts and the Institute of Urban Development – in cooperation with the Ministry of Regional Development and the city of Katowice have organized the meeting of the coordinators of Polish URBACT projects. The meeting took place in [Nikiszowiec](#) – historical mining estate, which is a example of successful social and physical renewal of post-industrial areas.

The goal of the meeting was to establish a **platform for experience exchange** on running URBACT projects through personal contacts and combining it with the study visit. During two days meeting the participants could listen about the effects of the already finished URBACT projects as each of them had a Polish partner: [HOPUS](#), [JESSICA 4 CITIES](#), [FIN-URB-ACT](#), [Joining Forces](#), [NODUS](#), [EGTC](#), they could also find out more on [LUMASEC](#) and [SUITE](#).

Lessons for the future

The key discussion point of the first day was the issue of active inclusion of local partners into implementation of the projects. In URBACT, the Local Support Group is a must. The goal of the LSG is to involve representatives of different levels of authorities from the one hand, and from the other – citizens, NGO's, local initiatives, etc. The reason they cooperate is simple – solving common problems through joint actions, discussed and agreed beforehand, so that their social acceptance is possibly highest. Polish society, had been quite systematically being de-

taught the local democracy and civic society activities for a long time and for the last 20 years it has been learning from the beginning how to cooperate to manage local issues in the neighborhood. The participation of local and regional authorities in the ULSG should provide durability and cohesion of the proposed solutions in the context of broader policies and strategies. According to the participants, URBACT Program, strengthens culture of cooperation and consultation.

Lessons learned

The second day of the conference was dedicated to presentations of the finished URBACT projects. Among themes presented – the one about the meaning of the spatial planning for the future economy, both local and national. According to dr. Gabriela Rembarz from Gdańsk University of Technology “in a short time Polish politicians will have to consider spatial planning as one of the key elements of economy. One of the contexts are the rising costs of urban sprawl. German examples show, that with demography going down we should be very careful with planning the development of housing stock, so that they do not need renewal programs in near future. Very important is also the issue of energy effectiveness of big housing estates, including eg. energy needed for commuting to central city.” Kraków, which presented the program of apartments' exchange, coordinated by the municipality, was positive that URBACT has helped them to develop better system of social consultations in this tough issue. As an effect, the social acceptance of the city's activities in housing



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stock management is rising, and the whole procedure of social consultations was approved as a local law by the City Council.

Participants could also find out about the results of the JESSICA 4 CITIES project, where Wielkopolska Region was the first European region to start implementation of this tool. In Wielkopolska, there are 2 areas of intervention: post-industrial areas' revitalization and support for SME's.

Durability of the projects' results and ULSG

This tough issue seems to be well managed in Słubice and Frankfurt/Oder – partners of the

EGTC Project. This already finished cross-border cooperation project has tangible results – two cities created *Słubice-Frankfurt Center of Competence and Cooperation*, where 2 persons from Poland and 3 persons from Germany will be working soon. The EGTC URBACT project has forced the authorities of both cities to meet on a regular basis and jointly plan the development of both cities together. Two of projects, proposed in the EGTC by the tandem Słubice-Frankfurt, were evaluated by the Ministry of Regional Development as unique and have already found the finances for implementation.

Place and role of urban policy in Poland

(based on documents of the conference "Urban Policy in Poland and in other EU Member States in the context of Polish National Cohesion Strategy and the Present and Future Cohesion Policy of EU" held in Katowice on 5th -6th November 2009

Summary prepared by Aldo Vargas-Tetmajer, Institute of Urban Development

The National Urban Policy is a set of strategic actions taken by the government especially in the legislative and regulatory fields, in cooperation with regional and urban areas and entities that may, and want to interact in partnership with these authorities.

It should be conducted in an integrated manner at all levels of territorial division of the country, especially at the national and local levels.

The state duty is the following:

- to define the directions of the national urban policy,
- to secure financial support for the attainment of its objectives at the local level: the level of concrete objectives, of their performance, and of noticeable effects.

In Poland urban policies have been set so far at the national level in Development Strategies and Land Management plans for the country as well as in Concepts of spatial development of the country. At the regional level in the strategy of socio-economic development and in Voivodship spatial development plans. At the local level in the strategy of socio-economic development of the local community and the study of conditions and directions of spatial management of cities. Nevertheless it has never been an independent policy, let alone implemented in an integrated and prioritized manner, and according to the recommendations of the European Union.

Polish cities, despite the relative low level of urbanization, play an increasing role in the settlement system of Europe.



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The national urban policy must address a large number of commonly occurring problems, which are generated by the social, economic and political systems functioning in Polish cities. The population of rural areas, but also big cities, is shrinking steadily, whilst their suburban areas are experiencing a rapid development. The population in areas of large cities in Poland represent with few exceptions 20 to 30% of the total population of the entire metropolitan area, while in metropolitan areas of Western Europe it represents 50% or more. The processes of rapid development of suburban areas is an inevitable phenomenon, which entails numerous consequences.

In Polish cities the share of degraded land in relation to the total surface of invested areas exceeded the average of 22%. Employment in industry declined from 60% to about 20% in various Polish cities. It is estimated that the area of brownfield sites in Polish cities is of about 52,800 ha and is still growing. Most of these areas are in Silesia, Mazowsze and Łódź. For 76% of cities-districts industrial areas are a serious issue and a further 10% of the cities are aware of the growth of the problem (according to research studies by the IRM, 2007). In the field of housing development, in 2008 the state budget spent for housing purposes accounted for 1,015.4 million PLN (excl. grants for construction and refurbishment carried out by the Ministries of Defense and Interior). This sum was lower than in 2007 by almost 182 mln PLN, ie. about 15%.

The most important indications for an urban policy in Poland can be reduced to the maintenance and development of the vision of an open, democratic, producing and perfecting the civilization in which we live, European city. These

ideas are within the paradigm of sustainable development, and are formulated in the Leipzig Charter, of which Poland is a signatory. Poland, to date, does not have an official document containing the interpretation of strategic actions mentioned at the outset. Despite the failure of the first version of the Act on urban policy and the national and local governments cooperation in this field - a project dated May 2009, further efforts are taken at the ministerial level and a change of the situation is to be expected in the near future.

More:

- [“Urban Policy in Poland and in other EU Member States in the context of Polish National Cohesion Strategy and the Present and Future Cohesion Policy of EU”](#)

Research project Regeneration of Polish cities as a means of preserving the material and spiritual heritage and a factor for sustainable development.

Project director: prof. Zygmunt Ziobrowski (Institute of Urban Development).

The research project was conducted from June 2007 to June 2010 and initially funded by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, and from April 2008 by the National Center for Research and Development. The project was implemented by a consortium composed of the Institute of Urban Development of Krakow as Lead Partner, the Warsaw School of Economics and the Jagiellonian University as Project Partners.

The results were published in a twelve volumes series *Regeneration of polish cities* by the Institute of Urban Development and partially on the portal www.rewitalizacja.org.pl. Basing on the results of the project were prepared a program and materials, necessary to starting graduate studies and training in urban regeneration. Key findings were presented at a series of four conferences in the spring of 2010, including during the Congress of Polish Cities Revitalization, which took place on the 14 - 16 June 2010 in Krakow.

The realization of the project made it possible to achieve the following educating, implementation and methodological objectives:

1. Educating objectives and scientific achievements:

- a) Assessment of the scale of Polish cities' degradation,
- b) Identification of existing regeneration activities,

- c) Identification of barriers and stimulants revitalization of cities in Poland

2. Implementation objectives:

- a) Evaluation of the possibility of using Western European solutions in Polish conditions
- b) Development of the assumptions of urban regeneration,
- c) Creating a model for regeneration of cities in Poland
- d) Developing a system of staff training,

3. Methodical objectives, scientific achievements and possibilities of practical applications:

- a) development of a method of delimitation of areas in crisis,
- b) development of methods for monitoring of regeneration.

The list of publications of the series *Regeneration of Polish cities* is as follows:

1. Guzik R., (ed.), 2009, Urban regeneration in Britain.
2. Skalski K., 2009, Regeneration in France - managing transformations of urban areas in crisis.
3. Bryx M., Jadach-Sepiolo A., (ed.), 2009, Urban regeneration in Germany
4. Jarczewski W., (ed.), 2009, Spatial aspects of regeneration - downtown, blocks, brownfields, post railway and post military,
5. Zborowski A., (ed.), 2009, Demographic and



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social conditions of urban regeneration in Poland,
6. Rydzik W., (ed.), 2009, Legal and organisational aspects of urban regeneration management,
7. Bryx M., (eds.), 2009, financing and property management in the process of regeneration,
8. Ziobrowski Z., Jarczewski W., (ed.), 2010, Polish urban regeneration - diagnosis,
9. Ziobrowski Z., (ed.), 2010, assumptions for an urban regeneration policy in Poland
10. Janas K., Jarczewski W., Wankowicz W., 2010, A model of urban regeneration,
11. Jarczewski W., Jeżak J., 2010, Monitoring system for urban regeneration,
12. Muzioł-Węclawowicz A., (ed.), 2010, Selected examples of regeneration,

The above mentioned publication series was concluded in 2010 by the Institute of Urban Development publication of a brochure entitled: **Summary of the project.**

The bases for further action, both research and implementation, have been created through the project, on three pillars:

- A website, which, thanks to its interactive formula, allows for the exchange of information between the project authors and municipalities,
- A post-graduate training (Jagiellonian University

and Warsaw School of Economics) and training (Institute of Urban Development and the Regeneration Forum), which will be activated after the completion of the project, - Biyearly Regeneration Congresses (Regeneration Fairs), which will be a form of exchange of experiences between communities of researchers and scholars, and practitioners, at a greater level than currently. The Association of Polish Cities and the Silesian Association of Municipalities and Districts have declared their willingness to participate in the organization of the Congresses .

The project itself and the wide popularization of its results, as pointed the participants of the 1st Regeneration Congress in Krakow, is a landmark in the working up to a systemic management of the increasingly complex processes of regeneration.

Model for integrated planning of urban development - the implementation of European urban development policy in the Polish planning system.

Project leader: Grażyna Korzeniak PhD (Institute of Urban Development). Project funded by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education

Urban development processes are characterized by a great level of complexity resulting from the various aspects of development, including key environmental, socio-economic, infrastructure, diversity of internal and external conditions that affect their course, linkages with local development processes, development of regional and national as well as European and global contexts, and the increasing pace of changes taking place. At the same time it emphasizes the need to establish stable and secure conditions for action and spending of public and private resources.

In Poland, the growth of cities is now controlled by a functioning system of planning that takes place within the separate currents corresponding to: the development planning under the Act of 6 December 2006 on the principles of development policy, spatial planning under the Act of March 27, 2003 planning and spatial management, as well as on sectoral planning. Spatial planning serves a special role through the elaboration of documents allowing the creation of spatial conditions for the implementation of various development policies and the spatial coordination of actions taken. The European urban development policy set out in the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities recommends the use of an integrated approach in planning, coordinating key areas of urban policy and giving a basis for consensus between the state, regions, cities, citizens and entrepreneurs.

In July 2008 the Ministry of Regional Development submitted the working version of the document **“Model of strategic planning in Poland”**. The basis of the proposed model is the assumption of the integration of the socio-economic and territorial dimensions of development programming. The model focuses on national and regional planning. Developed in the framework of the project, the planning model will be linked with the model of strategic planning and will cover planning at the local level, integrated with the strategic and sectoral programming. The results of the project will complement the Strategic Planning Model proposed by the Ministry of Regional Development.

The aim of the project is to improve the processes of comprehensive planning of spatial development of cities and the adaptation of the Polish system to EU standards. The end result of the project will:

- Present the **current state of the planning system of cities’ spatial development** with the evaluation of conditions for implementation of desired changes,
- Propose an **integrated planning model** that takes into account all aspects of development proposals for legislation and practices relevant to the planning of cities of all sizes.

The result of the work will be a publication, legislative proposals, conducting seminars and publishing training materials.



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URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal challenges. It helps them to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 255 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants

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