



COLLABORATION BETWEEN
TOWNS AND CITIES ON THE
EDGE OF EUROPE'S CAPITALS

EDGE CITIES NETWORK

Getafe, 7th - 8th MAY 2009



MINUTES OF THE EDGE CITIES NETWORK MEETING

Getafe, 7th and 8th May 2009

Participants:

- Ballerup:** Kåre Harder Olesen (Leader of Opposition)
Tom Nielsen (Vice Mayor)
Susse Bøtefyhr (International Coordinator)
Lisbeth Haubro Christensen (Head of Development Children and Youth)
- Getafe:** Felipe García (Manager of GISA)
Máximo Loarces (Political Coordinator of Finances Economic Development and Trade Department)
María Pedraza (Director of Industrial Promotion and Trade)
Susana Rodríguez (Technician of Industrial Promotion and Trade)
Beatriz García (Technician of Industrial Promotion and Trade)
Justo Gómez (Coordinator of Extrascholastic activities)
Juan Antonio Colmenares (Director of the Municipal Health Centre)
M^a del Mar Orozco (Municipal Health Centre)
Antonio Padrino Murillo (Drug Dependency)
M^a José Petit (Education Department)
Lourdes Muñoz (Education Department)
Esther Sainero (Education Department)
Silvana González (Director of Youth Department)
Dolores Aznar (Sports Department)
Esteban Muñoz (Sports Department)
Jesús Madrid (Secondary School Clara Campoamor)
Estíbaliz de Miguel (Secondary School Clara Campoamor)
- Harku:** Eddi Tomband (Assitant elder Social field and education)
- Nacka:** Gunnel Nyman Gräff (Opposition Councillor)
Ingegård Ångström (Intenational Coordinator)
Monica Brohede Tellström (Vice President for Education Commission)
Susanne Nord (Education expert)
- North Down:** David Shivers (Business Development Manager)

AGREEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS

- **Proposal from Ballerup: “Things Talk Project”:** Ballerup will send a letter explaining the project, so that the partners can disseminate this project among the schools. The partners will send the name of the local contact person.
- **Proposal form Ballerup: ECN YOUTH:** The partners will send the name of local contact person to Ballerup. Ballerup invites 2 - 4 representatives from each partner country (two adults and two young people aged 15 – 28 (according to the “Youth” programme)) to come to Ballerup this autumn for a meeting preparing the next summer camp in 2011 and preparing the application to the program “Youth in action”. It will not be possible to find external financing for this first preparatory meeting. It will be necessary to find an external project leader and all partners can propose candidates.
- **Meeting of the Aeronautic Sector in Barcelona:** Getafe will send to the partners information of the meeting in English as soon as it has it.
- **Erasmus for young entrepreneurs Programme:** the Edge Cities could work with the intermediary organisation in each region and collaborate to exchange entrepreneurs. The Steering Group agrees to get more information of this programme. Getafe will send more information.
- **Europe for Citizens Programme:** It is agreed:
 - To study the programme (especially 1.1, 1.2 and 2.1)
 - To have the steering group a videoconference in September
 - To exchange proposals and ideas
- **ECN Internships:** It was decided that Denmark and Sweden prepare a proposal for the partners about how to organise internships in the partners organisations.
- **Budget of the ECN:** GISA will send the budget by email.
- **Situation of Grodzisk:** Nacka will contact Grodzisk to ask them to accept formally the proposal of going on in the Network without paying the fees temporarily.
- **Website:**
 - It is agreed to hire a service to do the first uploading of the information. Later, every partner will update it. GISA will make a list of the issues that the partners

have to include in the web, in two weeks. With this list, Nacka will ask for a budget. GISA will ask for the information to the partners, and once it has been collected, GISA will send it to Nacka. The aim is to send it around 12th June.

- Nacka will forward a new and easier “User’s guide.”
- Ballerup has to forward a new photo.

- **PowerPoint presentation:** Nacka will introduce the following changes:
 - the black colour of the first page for blue colour
 - the expression “over dependency on the capital city” for “close relationship with the capital city”
 - the picture of the landscape of the first page for one showing dynamism
 - the picture of Ballerup for one she will send

- **Next Presidency:** The decision of the Next Presidency is postponed until the ECN knows if the Innovation Hub Project has been approved.

- **Hiring consultancy services:** It is agreed to hire an expert to prepare the presentation of projects to a call of proposals of the Youth Project and the Europe for Citizens Programme. All partners can think of a candidate. In addition, the partners will send proposal of 3 (more) issues each they want to work in. With this information and if there are common interests, GISA will ask for a budget to a consultant to prepare the projects to ask for grants.

- **New member:** It is agreed that Getafe, as President of the ECN, will send an official letter inviting Harku to joint the Network.

- **Politicians Videoconferences:** every partner will think about this proposal (the issues they want to dealt, the frequency ...) in their organisations and it will be discussed in the next meeting.

- It is agreed to include in the next agenda the re-evaluation of the objectives of the Edge Cities Network. Next triumvirate will prepare the agenda.

- **Next meeting:** as it is the next president who has to organize the next meeting and it is not decided yet who will be, it is agreed to celebrated in January 2010. The proposed dates are 28th and 29th January 2010.

6th May 2009

A welcome dinner was offered at 20 h. in the Hotel Hesperia, where participants were staying.

7th May 2009

Agenda:

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome

Pedro Castro Vázquez, Mayor of Getafe

9:15 – 11:00 Working groups:

Steering Group and politicians:

Participants: members of the Steering Group and politicians

Subjects:

- Presentation of the meeting (Getafe)
- Minutes of Getafe meeting. (Getafe)
- Presentation of the Edge Cities Network (Getafe)
- Presentations from new candidates
- Presentation of current activities
 - Interreg (Nacka)
 - Comenius (Getafe)
 - Youth projects – democracy and climate (Ballerup)
- Action Plan Update (Getafe)

Workshop: Education

Education in Health

Subjects:

- Physical training and exercising
- Prevention of feed disorders
- Healthy diet
- Youth, health and sexuality
- Drug dependency: prevention of drug dependency in schools

Education network

Subjects:

- Experiences of children participation in the city
- Experiences: Getafe. reader and writer city

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee Break

11:20 – 13:00 Working Groups:

Steering Group:

- Handbook (Ballerup)
- New proposal of activities (all partners).
- Budget (Fingal)
- Web site, brochure and PowerPoint presentation
- How the ECN will continue working in Youth Projects
- Next Presidency
- Necessity of hiring consultant services

Education: continuation of the meeting

Politician Forum: Economic Reactivation Plan in the cities. Measures.

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 17:00 Working Groups

Education: Continuation of the meeting

Steering Group: Continuation of the meeting

Political Forum: Visits

20:00 Official Dinner

WELCOME

Felipe García, Manager of the Local Development Agency Getafe Iniciativas, welcomes the members of the Edge Cities Network. He specially welcomes the representative of Harku Municipality, Mr. Eddi Tomband, the members of the Education Group and the teachers of the Secondary School Clara Campoamor.

Later in the morning, the Mayor of Getafe, **Pedro Castro**, welcomes also the members of the Edge Cities Network. He points out the importance of this Network to share ideas, knowledge and dreams; from them all of us learn.



Presentation of the meeting:

María Pedraza explains the Agenda for the two days of meeting.

STEERING GROUP AND POLITICIANS

Participants:

Ballerup: Kåre Harder Olesen (Leader of Opposition)
Tom Nielsen (Vice Mayor)
Susse Bøtefyhr (International Coordinator)

Getafe: Máximo Loarces (Political Coordinator of Finances Economic Development and Trade Department)
Felipe García (Manager of GISA)
María Pedraza (Director of Industrial Promotion and Trade)
Susana Rodríguez (Technician of Industrial Promotion and Trade)
Jesús Madrid (Secondary School Clara Campoamor)
Estíbaliz de Miguel (Secondary School Clara Campoamor)

Harku: Eddi Tomband (Assitant elder Social field and education)

Nacka: Gunnel Nyman Gräff (Opposition Councillor)
Ingegärd Ångström (Intenational Coordinator)
Monica Brohede Tellström (Vice President for Education Commission)

North Down: David Shivers (Business Development Manager)



Minutes of Getafe meeting:

Getafe gives a copy of the minutes of the Edge Cities Network meeting held in Getafe in October 2008.

The minutes are approved.

Presentation of the Edge Cities Network:

María Pedraza makes an exposition about the Edge Cities Network.

Presentations from new candidates:

Eddi Tomband explains that he joins this meeting invited by Nacka. He makes a presentation of Harku, which is enclosed as **Appendix 1**.

Comenius Project:

Jesús Madrid and **Estibaliz de Miguel** explain the Comenius Project that they are developing in the Secondary School Clara Campoamor of Getafe, with partners from Denmark and Ireland. The main objectives are to introduce a healthy lifestyle, to promote physical exercise and to involve the students in an European Project. The project goes from 2008 to 2010. They develop an activity called “How we walk”: students have to walk 1.463 km. Getafe-Dublin, Dublin-Ballerup and Ballerup-Madrid. Each student has to walk 5km/day during 18 days approximately. Their presentation is enclosed as **Appendix 2**.

Interreg Project:

Ingegärd Ångström informs about the presentation of the Innovation Hub Project to the call of proposals Interreg. She shows a presentation that is enclosed as **Appendix 3**.



Youth Projects:

Justo Gómez and Silvana González, from the Education and the Youth Departments of Getafe City Council, join the meeting for this issue.

Tom Nielsen makes the presentation of two projects:

- **“Youth Network”**: They propose the creation of a Youth Network. They are doing an International Camp in 2011, where they will deal issues (such as climate change) and they will do sports and cultural activities. They invite the partners of the ECN to go to the Camp. Ballerup will ask for a grant to the European Youth Programme of the Europe for Citizens Programme, for the International Camp, as well as for a preparation meeting, that they will celebrate. In 6 weeks they would like to have the contact people from every partner for this preparation meeting. It is addressed to people from 14 to 22 years old.

Youth in Action is a programme for all! It promotes mobility within and beyond the EU borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background.

The partners will send the name of local contact person to Ballerup. Ballerup invites 2 - 4 representatives from each partner country (two adults and two young people aged 15 – 28 (according to the “Youth” programme)) to come to Ballerup this autumn for a meeting preparing the next summer camp in 2011 and preparing the application to the program “Youth in action”. It will not be possible to find external financing for this first preparatory meeting. It will be necessary to find an external project leader and all partners can propose candidates.

The presentation is enclosed as **Appendix 4**.

Silvana González thinks it is a very interesting project for the Youth Department and they are interested in participating. She points out that the age of the participants has to be well defined, because the kinds of activities to be done are very different depending on it.

- **“Things Talk Project”**: A unique art and science school project where children learn about climate change and the environment by collecting rubbish and using it to create so-called ‘trash art’.

The presentation is enclosed as **Appendix 5**.



Justo Gómez will disseminate this project among the schools. **Ballerup** will send before a letter to him explaining the project so that he can give the information to the schools.

María Pedraza informs that the Action Plan will be dealt in the meeting of the Steering Group.

STEERING GROUP

New proposal of activities:

María Pedraza presents two activities:

- Meeting of the Aeronautic Sector in Barcelona: Getafe participates in a national network of local development agencies. One of the agencies, Barcelona Activa, is organising an international meeting of companies of the aeronautic sector. GISA sent information about this to the members of the Edge Cities Network.

David Shivers says they have companies of this sector in North Down.

GISA will send information of the meeting in English as soon as it has it.

- Erasmus for young entrepreneurs: It is a programme to facilitate exchange of experiences, learning and networking for new EU entrepreneurs through periods spent at SMEs of experienced entrepreneurs in other EU Member States. There are intermediary organisations to join companies and entrepreneurs. The Edge Cities could work with the intermediary organisation in each region and collaborate to exchange entrepreneurs. Getafe will send more information.

The Steering Group agrees to get more information of this programme.

Susse Bøtefyhr remarks that the "Europe for Citizens Programme" could be used to finance the participation of the society in the meetings of the Edge Cities (associations, citizens...). This programme could be a good opportunity for the Network.

It is agreed:

- To study the programme (especially 1.1, 1.2 and 2.1)
- To have the steering group a videoconference in September
- To exchange proposals and ideas

María Pedraza says that it's very important also for the Network to get the Interreg grant.



Ingegärd Ångström proposes to do exchanges of staff among the members of the Edge Cities. The Edge Cities would have to find financing for it. It is decided that Denmark and Sweden prepare a proposal for the partners about how to organise internships in the partners organisations.

María Pedraza informs that she has had a meeting with the coordinator of the Municipalities and Provinces Federation and has sent with a letter signed by the Mayor of Getafe, to disseminate it among their contacts.

Budget:

GISA gives the current budget. Incomes from Nacka, Getafe and Fingal have to be included and Grodzisk fees have to be removed. GISA will send the budget by email.

Ingegärd Ångström informs that Fingal sent an invoice to Grodzisk. They were very surprised because they have been offered two years without paying, so they phoned to Nacka. It was a very unpleasant mistake.

María Pedraza explains that GISA sent the minutes of the videoconference in which the steering group took the decision of not charging Grodzisk with the fees, so Fingal was also informed.

Nacka will contact Grodzisk to ask them to accept formally the proposal.

Web site, brochure and PowerPoint presentation:

Susse Bøtefyhr says that, in opinion of her colleges in charge of uploading the web site, it is very difficult to do it and to use the search function. They also think there is a security problem and every partner should be only allowed to modify their own information.

Susana Rodríguez agrees that it's not easy to upload. About the security problem it isn't useful to have individual passwords because most of the web site sections are of shared use. Anyway, it is urgent that every partner uploads the information because it is the main mean of communication of the network.

It is agreed to hire a service to do the first uploading of the information. Later, every partner will update it. GISA will make a list of the issues that the partners have to include in the web, in two weeks. With this list, Nacka will ask for a budget. GISA will ask for the information to the partners, and once it has been collected, GISA will send it to Nacka. The aim is to send it around 12th June. Nacka will forward a new and easier "User's guide" and Ballerup has to forward a new photo.

About the PowerPoint presentation, **Susse Bøtefyhr** proposes:

- To change the black colour of the first page for blue colour
- To change the expression "over dependency on the capital city" for "close relationship with the capital city"
- To change the picture of the landscape of the first page for one showing dynamism
- To change the picture of Ballerup for one she will send

Nacka will introduce these changes.

Next Presidency:

David Shivers informs that they can't assume the presidency for 2009-2010. Their best option is 2011-2012. He thinks Fingal will not assume it either.

Susse Bøtefyhr thinks that Ballerup could assume the presidency in 2010-2011.

Ingegärd Ångström says that Nacka will accept the presidency in 2009-2010 if the Innovation Hub project is approved. The decision is expected for next autumn.

The decision of the Next Presidency is postponed until then.

Necessity of hiring consultant services:

It is agreed to hire an expert to prepare the presentation of projects to a call of proposals of the Youth Project and the Europe for Citizens Programme. All partners can think of a candidate. In addition, the partners will send proposal of 3 (more) issues each they want to work in. With this information and if there are common interests, GISA will ask for a budget to a consultant to prepare the projects to ask for grants.

New member:

It is agreed that Getafe, as President of the ECN, will send an official letter inviting Harku to join the Network.

Susse Bøtefyhr informs about the contacts that she has made with possible new members (Almere, Berlin, Rome...)

Ingegärd Ångström has had contacts with Ploeaste (Romania) and **David Shivers** with Cyprus.

Loures and Pernik have showed interest in joining the Network.

EDUCATION

Participants:

Ballerup: Lisbeth Haubro Christensen (Head of Development Children and Youth)

Getafe: M^a José Petit (Education Department)

M^a del Mar Orozco (Municipal Health Centre)

Dolores Aznar (Sports Department)

Juan Antonio Colmenares (Director of the Municipal Health Centre)

Antonio Padrino (Drug Dependency)
Esther Sainero (Education Department)
Esteban Muñoz (Sports Department)
Lourdes Muñoz (Education Department)
Silvana González (Director of Youth Department)
Justo Gómez (Coordinator of Extrascholastic Activities)
Beatriz García (Technician of Industrial Promotion and Trade)

Nacka: Susanne Nord (Education Expert)

The meeting begins at 09:45 with the following agenda:

Education in Health

Subjects:

- Prevention of feed disorders
- Healthy diet
- Physical training and exercising
- Youth, health and sexuality
- Drug dependency

Education network

Subjects:

- Experiences of children participation in the city
- Experiences: Getafe reader and writer city

PREVENTION OF FEED DISORDERS

M^a José Petit inaugurates the working group welcoming the participants and explains the program for anorexia and bulimia's precocious detection in children from 12 to 14 years old. The objectives of this program are: to make aware and inform about the feed disorders, to detect the risky students, to give formation to paediatrics and teachers, to make individual interviews, to derive the diagnose cases, to create working groups about personal capabilities for students and parents...

Moreover, she adds that they have a questionnaire in order to detect the students in a risky situation and they work with tutors and families.

Lisbet Haubro Christensen asks about the financing and **M^a José Petit** explains how four years ago they had financing from an agreement with the Complutense University, but nowadays they don't have any budget for the program, and they only have the professionals' work and the collaboration with the educative centres.

HEALTHY DIET

M^a del Mar Orozco explains that, due to the Education questionnaire, teachers requested a talk with the students about food. For that reason in 2004 the CMS (Municipal Health Centre) began with students from 9 to 13 years old from all the educative centres of the municipality.

In the talks they work with students and teachers and they provide an inquiry called "one day of food" where the students fill in the food they have in a day.

This study shows that in primary school 79% of children have breakfast, 62% have food five times a day, 37% have an appropriate lunch, 44% have an appropriate dinner, 16% have and adequate distribution of lunch and dinner, and 74% have a healthy snack in the playtime. In secondary school, 62% of children have breakfast, 36% have food five times a day, 12% have an appropriate lunch, 35% have an appropriate dinner, 61% have and adequate distribution of lunch and dinner, and 38% have a healthy snack in the playtime.

Susanne Nord asks about the breakfast in the schools, and **M^a del Mar Orozco** answers that some of the primary schools (not secondary schools) have this service and parents can leave children before in the school to have breakfast

PHYSICAL TRAINING AND EXERCISING

Dolores Aznar exposes the services of the sports delegation disintegrated in: sports education, local competitions, physical offer for adults, free time and everyone activities, and sport spectacles. The aim of the sport delegation is the promotion of the practice of the sports among the population of the municipality, as healthy individual and social habit and improvement of life quality.

In addition, she explains that there is sport promotion of special social interest as the Getafe football club with 1.000 children from 6 to 18 years old, the Danone's integration school and the Fabio Celestini Foundation for children from socio-economic disadvantaged environments, and "FEDI" sports schools for children and young men and women with intellectual disability.

Finally she brings information about population under 18 years versus participation in sports activities, pointing out that the percentage of participation in these activities are 44%.

Lisbet Haubro Christensen comments that they have difficulties in spare time to go to the clubs to obtain collaborations and asks how Getafe obtains such participation from sports clubs and associations. **Dolores Aznar** explains that the collaboration between the city council and the associations go back to the last 30 years, and there are municipal grants for the local sport teams.



YOUTH, HEALTH AND SEXUALITY

Juan Antonio Colmenares exposes the youth program of health and sexuality that begins in the 80's when detecting that the beginning in the sexuality was an important aspect in the life of the young people and it took place under contradictory social influences and in a stage of personal fragility, but nevertheless this group did not use to go to ask for information and professional attendance because they distrust of the adult and had fear of finding, in the same sanitary places, with their parents.

After that, he describes how the CMS (Municipal Health Centre) of Getafe, from a Program of Familiar Planning and another one of Promotion and Education for the Health, designs an integral program, to facilitate the young people the professional and technical access to sexuality with enough information and professional and technical means.

Lisbet Haubro Christensen asks if there are many high school mothers in Getafe and **Juan Antonio Colmenares** answers that there are many, and some of them want to go ahead with

the pregnancy. In the Municipal Health Centre they bring them information about terminate a pregnancy and psychological support. He also comments that there is a relation between school drop-out and unwanted pregnancy.

EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY

Esther Sainiero exposes how the city council favours the children participation in Getafe with the Childhood and Adolescence Commission. She adds that children should be informed and can take part in the decisions about the topics that affect them. Furthermore, she explains that the city council has the responsibility of proposing projects in order to favour children participation in the school, in the family, in the city...

She adds that it began in 2000 and nowadays it is composed by 50 members from 8 to 16 years old. Their work consists on study a topic, analyse it, and negotiate with the municipal representatives, trying not to reproduce adult structures and taking into account their ways of expression.

Finally, she shows an example of this participation "places to play, places to share", where children deal with the problem of the parks in the city. They believe that the parks are only for small children and they propose an alternative also for children above seven.

Lisbet Haubro Christensen and **Susanne Nord** comment that they have similar actions in their countries.

Justo Gómez and **Esther Sainiero** propose to make a project in cooperation because it would be very interesting for the children to know that there are other places where they do something similar.

DROG DEPENDENCY

Antonio Padrino starts his presentation comparing data of the three countries; showing that Denmark has nowadays problems with drugs that Spain had long time ago. After that, he shows the situation of Getafe where the prevention is an important objective. They work with teenagers explaining them the risks they would have if the consume drugs, and making them participate in prevention programs (he delivers a copy of the preventing materials).

He adds that there are resources from the autonomous community and from the city council, and they have made an important inquiry in Getafe about drugs very similar to the national one, so they can compare the data.



After that, he exposes the main results of the inquiry for 2007, and points out that the 85,9% of the students from 14 to 18 years old consider themselves enough or perfectly informed about drugs.

Lisbet Haubro Christensen exposes that they have a program for parents to know if their children take drugs, and asks if in Getafe it is easy to obtain drugs, and if there are problems with bands fighting.

Antonio Padrino answers that it is easy to obtain drugs in Getafe, and even though tobacco or alcohol for children under 18.

Lisbet Haubro Christensen does a presentation about health and sports. She explains that they have services in day-care, and children pay 3 € for a service for meals, used by 1/3 of the students. The main objectives for them are: to promote physical exercise, to have places to play and to promote activities. Moreover, she explains that they are thinking about activities for people with physical handicaps.

She also explains that her municipality makes facilities available and makes an effort in order to obtain children's participation.

Esteban Muñoz and **M^a del Mar Orozco** ask about healthy diet in the schools in Ballerup and Nacka.

Lisbet Haubro Christensen answers that in Ballerup there is an outsourcing of the food and it's very controlled.

Susanne Nord comments that in Nacka every child has breakfast and lunch guided by a nutritionist, and it is organically-grown food.

Esther Sainiero exposes that there is also a problem of security in the cities for children that impedes them to play in the streets and practice sports.

EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY

Silvana González shows the “Portal Joven” a youth website with information for young people, access to social nets, services to inform by mobile phone messages about the city council's news...

After this practical presentation, she exposes the project “catch in a net with Getafe”. This is a group of information points that belong to a net promoted by the SIAJ (Youth Information and Advice Service) and feed-backed by every point. The structure, adapted to the new technologies, is spread all over the municipality and it's an identified place where young people can obtain information.

Justo Gómez asks if in their countries there is something similar. Ballerup and Nacka answer affirmatively.

Silvana González adds that there is a group of 15 young people which also carry out the project and these young people are a reference for the young people in the SIAJ (Youth Information and Advice Service).

GETAFE READER AND WRITER CITY

Lourdes Muñoz brings information about the project “Getafe Reader and Writer City”. The aims of this project are to discover several possibilities of reading and writing, to foment the pleasure of reading and writing, to create identifying marks for the participants, to organize meetings and interchanges...

In addition, the project is developed by the creation of the “Reading routes”, sceneries where reading and writing actions are carried out. Every route starts with a passport, in which every action done is sealed. The actions take place in schools, libraries, poetry centres... and when they finish the route they obtain a diploma.

Lisbet Haubro Christensen asks if there is any research or measure about how fast can children read, or how do they write.

Lourdes Muñoz answers that there isn't because it should to be done out of the school schedule.

Antonio Padrino finishes the meeting inviting the group to visit the CMS (Municipal Health Centre) and the CAID (Integral Care Centre for Drug Addiction).

POLITICAL FORUM

Participants:

Ballerup: Tom Nielsen (Vice Mayor)

Getafe: Felipe García (Manager of GISA)
Máximo Loarces (Political Coordinator of Finances Economic Development and Trade Department)

Nacka: Gunnel Nyman Gräff (Opposition Councillor)
Monica Brohede Tellström (Vice President for Education Commission)

Harku: Eddi Tomband (Assitant elder Social field and education)

Felipe García exposes the main lines of work in Getafe to face the crisis:

- Strategic Plan for Employment and Economic Development
- Reduction of the Municipal Budget Plan

The presentation is enclosed as **Appendix 6**.

The group asks **Felipe García** about the unemployment and the “curious” case of Getafe’s housing taking into account the crisis in this sector.

He answers that the unemployment in the municipality during 2008 had increase in a year and a half from 6.300 to 12.300 people of the 162.000 inhabitants of Getafe, which is a 17% unemployment rate.

The housing Plan answers the Getafe's young people demand for buy a house in the municipality. The cost will be around the 25 or 30% of the market value.

Ballerup and Nacka reckon that they haven't notice the crisis yet, but they think it will arrive to their countries soon.

Tom Nielsen explains that in Denmark they are having a negative economic growth and an increase of the 1.6% in the unemployment rate.

Felipe García exposes that in Spain the crisis is so hard, especially for the unemployment. In Getafe there are three main causes:

- Decrease of the small local commerce
- Strong difficulties en the SME, due to the financial conditions.
- Construction

Felipe García shows his interest about these items in the rest of the municipalities of the Network.

Tom Nielsen explains that Ballerup is not affected, and is in the West side of Denmark where the export trade enterprises are making redundancies. With regard to their SMEs, they have solvency to pay their debts. Ballerup has been one of the first municipalities in notice the unemployment and feel the crisis very different.

Mónica Brohede participates saying that the crisis hasn't been important yet, neither in Sweden, nor in Nacka, but they think the crisis will reach them in one or two year's time. Last year Nacka had surplus as usual, but in less quantity. She predicts that this year they would have nor other option but to decrease the tax rate. Big Swedish cities had good economy and low unemployment rates. The East and North regions are having more difficulties. She also informs about the tax balance among the municipalities. The unemployment rate in Sweden is 4.8% and in Nacka 3%. They predict an unemployment rate around the 10% in 2011 in their country.

Nacka has mainly service sector, but it hadn't been affected by the crisis.

Furthermore, in Sweden they can't increase the taxes or reduce the budget for social security benefits, as it's regulated by law. The National Government is strengthening the banks and reducing the taxes to provide more money to the citizens. Moreover, they are investing more in formation for disabled people.

She thinks that the cooperation among the three administrative levels in Sweden is very complicate, and they have a project to fix the employment service and the social security in order to make advice activities and to strengthen the formation for get a job.

Felipe García asks **Monica Brohede** about the situation of the local commerce and the SMEs with the crisis.

Mónica Brohede comments that in Nacka they have given a strong support to superstores, and the technological and construction enterprises had had problems, and also beauty services had the same problems.

Felipe García asks about the incidence in Europe of the reduction of consume and the reduction of the loans given by the banks, because it's happening in Getafe and it's causing unemployment.

Mónica Brohede answers that Sweden doesn't have this problem now, but they have the reduction of consume, and syndicates and employers had decided to reduce the hours of work and the salaries.

Tom Nielsen says that to improve the situations of the enterprises, the government extended the period for loans and taxes. Moreover they promote the restoration of buildings and the installation of renewable energy systems.

He adds the government in his country had decided to decrease taxes, and the democrats don't agree because in Denmark the social security benefits are not protected by a law.

Municipalities decide with the state the maximum quantity of money they can spend every year, and they think it's a good idea. In Ballerup, which is governed by the democrats, they consider that the municipalities should manage and decide about de budgets and the central government should give them part of the estate's incomes.

The presentation is enclosed as **Appendix 7**.

Gunel Nyman agrees with him but he comments that in Nacka they don't reduce the taxes because they want to maintain the services for the citizens

An official dinner is offered in Hotel Victoria, in Madrid.



8th May 2009

9:00 Workshop Where and how can ECN create added value for the citizens in our local governments? What are the instruments? How do we use them and how do we tell about them?

Introduction – *Myriam Martín (D’ALEPH)*

9:30 Presentations by the partners: how we are working with the network and how we are trying to spread it out in the organisation

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Discussion by the partners

12:00 Conclusions

12:30 Closing of the meeting

13:00 Lunch

El Apeadero Urbano

Myriam Martín, from the consultancy D’Aleph makes a presentation about the networks in the cities, which is enclosed as **Appendix 8**.

The partners of the Edge Cities make an exposition about how they are working with the network and how they are trying to spread it out in their organisations.

The speakers and the intervention order were:

- Ballerup: Susse Bøtefyhr
- Getafe: María Pedraza
- Nacka: Ingegärd Ångström
- North Down: David Shivers

The presentations are enclosed as **Appendices 9, 10, 11 y 12**.

Some ideas and proposals discussed, during and after the presentations, are:

Susse Bøtefyhr explains that having the Presidency was good for spreading the Network in Ballerup, as many politicians and technicians participated. She thinks that it is important to show how citizens benefit from the Edge Cities Network.

David Shivers proposes to do an electronic magazine and to promote the Network in the EU, for example in “EU Open Days”.



Kåre Harder thinks that the establishment of the Political Forum has been very interesting. They have benefited from it. In Ballerup they have been talking about the future of the ECN and they think citizens have to be included.

María Pedraza thinks that having projects is the way to involve more people in the Network. She proposes to hire a consultant to prepare a project to ask for a grant.

Susse Bøtefyhr emphasizes that many networks are created everyday and they disappear when the projects finish, but the ECN remains and that's why this network is very important.

Máximo Loarces thinks that the Network is interesting for politicians if it develops projects and isn't an expense for the municipality.

David Shivers proposes to hold videoconferences among politicians every two or three months to exchange experiences.

Monica Brohede Tellström agrees with this idea. She thinks that the cooperation and exchange of experiences is very important, not only the development of projects. It is also important the participation of the politicians, that has improved very much these last years.

Eddi Tomband exposes that he has liked very much to be in this meeting, and proposes to include good practices in the web site of the ECN.

About hiring consultancy services, **Susse Bøtefyhr** proposes that every partner writes around 3 different issues they would like to work in, and afterwards they could see if there are common interests.



Ingegärd Ångström proposes to hire a consultancy service to prepare the grant for Europe for Citizens and the Youth Project.

María Pedraza proposes that Getafe, as the coordinator of the Network, asks for a budget to a consultant. Previously the partners have to send the issues they want to work in.

This proposal is approved.

María Pedraza informs that GISA will prepare, apart from the minutes, a short document with the commitments and agreements of this meeting.

About the proposal of celebrating videoconferences among the politicians it is agreed that every partner think about it (the issues, the frequency ...) in their organisations and to discuss it the next meeting.

It is also agreed to include in the next agenda the re-evaluation of the objectives of the Edge Cities Network. Next triumvirate will prepare the agenda

About the next meeting, as it is the next president who has to organize it and it is not decided yet who will be, it is agreed to celebrated in January 2010. The proposed dates are 28th and 29th January 2010.

The meeting ends with a lunch in El Apeadero Urbano, special employment centre created by GISA to integrated disabled people by giving them a job.

APPENDICES

- **STEERING GROUP AND POLITICIANS MEETING 7th May:**

- Appendix 1: Presentation of Harku
- Appendix 2: Commenius
- Appendix 3: Innovation Hub Project
- Appendix 4: Youth Network
- Appendix 5: Thing Talk Project

- **POLITICIANS MEETING 7th May:**

- Appendix 6: Presentation of Getafe
- Appendix 7: Presentation of Ballerup

- **STEERING GROUP AND POLITICIANS MEETING 8th May:**

- Appendix 8: D'Leph
- Appendix 9: Ballerup
- Appendix 10: Getafe
- Appendix 11: Nacka
- Appendix 12: North Down