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<p>Planning for the next activities of the URB-AL Programme (Year 2000)*</p>

Dates	Networks	Coordinations	Activities	Venues
10-11/04	N° 5 Urban social policies	Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo	1st annual meeting	Montevideo
13-14/04	N° 1 Drugs and towns	Municipalidad de Santiago de Chile	2nd annual meeting	Santiago
8-10/05	N° 3 Democracy in towns	City of Issy-les-Moulineaux	1st annual meeting	Belo Horizonte
June	N° 2 Conservation of historic urban contexts	Province of Vicenza	2nd annual meeting	
September	N° 4 The town as a promoter of economic development	Madrid City Council	1st annual meeting	Madrid
18-19/10	N° 8 Control of urban mobility	Stuttgart City Council	Launch seminar	Stuttgart
08-09/11	N° 7 Management and control of urbanisation	Intendencia Municipal de Rosario	Launch seminar	Rosario
03-05/12	II Biennial meeting "Social integration in cities"	Prefeitura de Rio de Janeiro	Biennial meeting	Rio de Janeiro

* Provisional dates - to be confirmed or modified.

**Launch seminar for Network No 4 "The town as a promoter of economic development"
coordinated by Madrid City Council**

On 23 and 24 September 1999 the Launch Seminar for Network No 4 "The town as a promoter of economic development" was held in the Madrid Conference Centre. Over 200 representatives of European and Latin American local authorities from 24 different countries took part in this Seminar. There were also participants from the business world, international organisations and NGOs.

The Seminar was officially opened with speeches from the Mayor and Leader of Madrid City Council, Mr José María Álvarez del Manzano y López del Hierro, and the Deputy Mayor, Mrs Mercedes de la Merced Monge, who thanked those present for taking part and explained Madrid City Council's role in setting up and implementing the Network.

Mr Da Câmara Gomes, from the European Commission's Latin America Directorate, then spoke on the cooperation relations between the European Union and Latin America. This was followed by a speech by Mr Alberto Andrade, Mayor of Lima, on economic development of cities.

Following a detailed presentation of the URB-AL programme, the expert co-authors of the Base Document commented on and analysed the theme of the network. The various speeches and presentations were followed by meetings of the eight thematic workshops as follows:

1. Strategic planning as an element of economic development.
2. Urbanism and infrastructures, patrimony.
3. Health and environment as a motor of development.
4. Tourism, culture and sport.
5. Employment and training.
6. Projects for economic development: management, financing and investments.
7. Local authorities' role in cities' economic development: Complementarity between public and private actions.
8. Entrepreneurial promotion: small and medium-sized enterprises. New technologies.

The days devoted to working group meetings were particularly productive and resulted in 61 ideas for possible joint project proposals.

The second day saw a Round Table meeting on the theme "Business and cities' economic development" chaired by Mr Juan Mato Rodríguez, President of the Madrid Chamber of Commerce, and Mr Gerardo Díaz Ferrán, First Vice-President of the CEIM, Madrid Business Confederation. The presentations and subsequent debate proved very interesting, generating a great deal of comment from those present and highlighting the practical aspects of the theme of the Network.

The results of the thematic workshops were presented in the final plenary session before the official closing address made by Mr José María Álvarez del Manzano y López del Hierro and Mrs Mercedes de la Merced Monge.

The deadline for submission of project proposals to the Commission is 28 February 2000 (for more information see Network No 4's web site - details on page 12).

Business and cities' economic development

Extract from the speech made by Juan Matos, President of the Madrid Chamber of Commerce, during the Round Table of the Launch Seminar held in Madrid

Today we find ourselves in the midst of a process of globalisation in which cities are essential nuclei of economic activity and focal points for development.

Over time, cities have become either exclusively or principally dedicated to the activities of the tertiary or service sector. We must not forget that cities are also communications centres and, with an unusually high concentration of centres for all levels of teaching and training, they almost automatically become hubs of research and innovation.

The bigger the city, the greater its relative importance to the economic activity or demographic distribution of a country and – these three characteristics tending to go hand in hand – the greater the need to bring order and harmony to its expansion before it becomes an overwhelming urban sprawl, difficult to live and travel in.

This leads to inevitable conflicts of interest, compounded by the superimposition of spheres of administrative responsibility at various levels: national, regional, departmental, district, provincial and municipal. This is before we take account of the fact that events in the metropolis have an irreversible effect on nearby towns, which consequently should be consulted and made party to agreements on the speed, shape and limits to be imposed on the expansion of large cities, whose populations have a tendency to gradually move away from the centre, creating inter-relationships which sometimes spread throughout the whole region.

Each new need to be met, each increase in demand and each new qualitative amendment to demand will in turn give rise to new businesses, new establishments, new expectations of benefits and employment: this will have the effect of increasing the centripetal effect of the city, which will then draw in more and more people and businesses.

Inevitably this will lead to conflict between free but disorganised growth and the need to channel the expansion of the city, and it would be appropriate to seek a reasonable agreement allowing a balance to be struck between the extreme and opposing positions which will undoubtedly be adopted by the inhabitants (or users) of the cities and their representatives in all areas (political, trade union, professional, sectoral).

Younger cities can learn from the experience of those which, with a longer history or at a more advanced stage of development, have already been through the problems and dilemmas facing more recent or less advanced cities. It is not a case of copying or imitating, but of observing and trying to benefit from the knowledge to be gained through the experiences of others but without themselves suffering the pain of such experiences. Indeed, mistakes are a valuable source of information, which prevents them from repeating themselves. Almost every visionary idea offered or arising at any given moment as a panacea and brilliant solution to every problem will, after a little investigation and analysis, be revealed to have a precedent: simple observation of the actual consequences can save time and money.

In addition, a city is in its nature very similar to a living organism in that it cannot remain static and unchanging but is subject to pressures and impulses, which are as contradictory as they are constant, and is constantly, evolving. Attempts to create barriers to stop this process are usually futile - the barriers are always insufficient - and any successful creation and implementation of initiatives to impose immobility would probably have been detrimental to the city, since a city can never be static.

**Network No 7 “Management and control of urbanisation”
coordinated by the city of Rosario, Argentina**

Presentation by María del Huerto Romero, Assistant Director for International Relations in Rosario City Council.

As coordinator of Network No 7 “Management and control of urbanisation”, the city of Rosario aims to create an environment conducive to the exchange and transfer of experiences and reflections with a view to improving the mechanisms for the management and control of urbanisation, developing innovative policies to improve the quality of our cities.

In our work, our approach will acknowledge that the city cannot be shaped exclusively by processes of expansion, but that these can be guided towards becoming processes of construction. We cannot leave the city to the destabilising influence of spontaneous growth processes.

This situation raises the need to develop new programmes and projects, including various activities and services, to channel investment towards certain areas, strategically chosen to encourage a policy of equilibrium between the city and the surrounding territory. This means that urbanisation processes should be considered an opportunity for the construction of the city and not just for its growth.

Our primary challenge is to avoid dual cities, encompassing mutually exclusive centres and peripheries and socially and functionally segregated populations and activities, and develop polycentric cities, with plural districts and polyvalent areas of activity raising the quality of public spaces, their symbolic value and integrating function.

Accordingly, the themes considered of priority importance for the work of the network are:

- The development of specific programmes and projects for the promotion of new areas of urbanisation.
- The definition of new urban management models.

The approach to these themes will lead to specific applications to cities, not as isolated undertakings but as systematic and ordered operations depending on the level and type of intervention, ensuring successful results. For this, three management tools will be needed:

- General plan positioning the city, or Strategic Plan.
- Urban or Master Plan.
- Modernisation of local management with input from citizens.

The city of Rosario has a long history of control and management of urbanisation, both in the academic environment and in the practice of local government.

In the 1990s, discussions of cities turned their attention to the need for advancement through programmes encouraging citizens' participation, as well as the need for more wide-ranging and flexible plans giving thought to the integration of the city in the new national and international context. Thus began the work of revising and updating the Master Plan, of public debate with institutions and citizens, and of obtaining the social consensus needed for the most important proposals.

At the same time, the Decentralisation and Municipal Modernisation programme was created and the Promotional Committee, the Council and the Coordination Office for the Rosario Strategic Plan were set up. In 1998 the final version of the Strategic Plan was adopted, which started the implementation stage. In this way the Master Plan, the modernisation and decentralisation of the town and the Strategic Plan became cornerstones of the management of the city.

In developing its activities, and in the sphere of international relations, the city of Rosario has also shown its interest and concern for control and management of urbanisation. This is demonstrated both by the development of international cooperation initiatives in this field, and by the city's participation in international networks and organisations linked to this issue.

For the promotion, information, development and follow-up of the activities of Network No 7, Rosario City Council has established a Coordination Office, headed by Miguel Lifschitz, Secretary-General of the Rosario City Council and Coordinator of the Rosario Strategic Plan (see contact details on page 12).

**Network No 8 "Control of urban mobility"
coordinated by the city of Stuttgart, Germany**

Presentation by Wolfgang Forderer, coordinator of the network.

Stuttgart is the capital of the *Land* of Baden-Württemberg and the urban heart of one of the principal urban areas of Germany from the point of view of both economy and population density. The city of 560,000 inhabitants is the centre of the large urban agglomeration "Stuttgart Region", which has 2.5 million inhabitants and 1.3 million workers. As Stuttgart is in the centre of one of the densest urban agglomerations in Germany, this city is familiar with not only the problems arising out of its inhabitants' heightened need for mobility, but also with the solutions to these problems. These solutions for urban mobility call for the separation of economic growth from traffic growth, thus leading to an increase in the quality of life and a reduction in environmental pollution.

25% of the population is of foreign origin, which gives an international aspect to Stuttgart's economic and academic activities and also gives it an international reputation in other sectors (culture, religion, urban construction, etc.). The city has taken various steps to support and establish a network of connections between these international activities. Stuttgart is, for example, the first city in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg to have created an office coordinating European and international activities in the federal capital, and harmonises them with the activities of other social players (universities, businesses, foundations, scientific, cultural and technical centres, associations, churches, NGOs, etc.).

Knowledge of and experiments with mobility have been a part of life in Stuttgart for many years. The city was exposed to the phenomenon of the car much earlier than almost any other city in the world. In 1886 Gottlieb Daimler built the world's first four-wheeled motorised vehicle. To this day Stuttgart has maintained this tradition of engineering, innovation and quality: by way of example, the city's transport company, the SSB, received an award for being the world's best local transport company during the 1997 UITP Congress. In this connection we can also name Stuttgart and Hohenheim universities, the Max Planck and Fraunhofer research institutes, the car companies (Daimler-Chrysler, Porsche) the companies in sectors auxiliary to motoring (Bosch, Schenker Group), information and communication technologies companies (IBM, Mannesmann, Siemens) and public bodies, especially SSB (Stuttgarter Straßenbahnen AG, the city's own public transport company), the Stuttgart City Council and the Stuttgart Region Association which represents 179 communal bodies. The City Council and the Mayor's Office are working on extending these responsibilities. For this reason the City Council has decided to develop the identity of the Land capital to make it into a European centre for skills in mobility.

The city of Stuttgart would like to share with other cities in Europe and Latin America its skills and experience in all areas relating to the creation and development of lasting decentralised networks, the organisation and implementation of international working meetings and the development and implementation of joint projects in the area of urban mobility. Stuttgart therefore asked to be put in charge of coordinating Network No 8 of the URB-AL Programme, of which the next stages of development will be:

- The coordination office will, in early 2000, go on-line via the city of Stuttgart web site (www.stuttgart.de).
- The experts and the coordinator will meet at a workshop in the University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim to work on a document to define urban mobility, the working areas of each expert and the structure of the base document.
- The experts will also compile a survey to be sent to each member of the network to collate and analyse general and important data and to reveal the members' problems, hopes and suggestions for urban mobility.
- The Mayor of Stuttgart, Dr Wolfgang Schuster, would like to bring together mayors from Latin America and Europe at a second workshop to discuss the base document.

Cities wishing more information or which would like to join Network No 8 can contact the coordinator, Wolfgang Forderer (see contact details on page 12).

The second biennial meeting

The second biennial meeting of the URB-AL programme will be organised and staged by the City of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

This meeting is scheduled for December 2000 and will concentrate on the topic of "Social Integration in Cities". Interested local authorities can contact the City of Rio de Janeiro (see contact details on page 11).

Status of joint projects

In the context of the activities of thematic networks 2, 3 and 5, the European Commission received 25 proposals for joint projects.

Network No 2 "Conservation of historic urban contexts", coordinated by the Province of Vicenza, sent eight project proposals. These proposals were developed in response to the second call following the annual meeting held in June 1999.

For Network No 3 "Democracy in towns", coordinated by the City of Issy-les-Moulineaux, six project proposals were submitted.

Network No 5 "Urban social policies", coordinated by the Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo, submitted 11 project proposals.

In accordance with standard procedure, the proposals were forwarded to the European Commission, which will work with the high-level technical committee to select projects to receive co-financing.

In addition, 13 joint projects have already been selected by the European Commission for co-financing (nine from Network No 1 "Towns and drugs" and four from Network 2 "Conservation of historic urban contexts") and some projects have already begun work.

Readers' contributions

- **Medium-sized Towns, Municipal Regions and Territorial Development**

Extract from a talk given by CLARA BRAUN (IFAM - Federal Institute for Municipal Affairs - Home Affairs Ministry), Buenos Aires, Argentina. E-mail: cbraun@ifam.gov.ar

As the major cities of the world continue to grow, medium-sized towns are currently attracting new interest as a possible factor in restoring urban equilibrium. Over the last ten years, many studies, analyses and systematisations have been carried out on such cities' activities and roles in the context of global economic processes.

At the same time, from the middle of the decade onwards, medium-sized towns began to attract specific attention as a counter to the "immense agglomerations, mega-cities packing in more people than the infrastructure permits..." with the aim of moving towards a "better-administered urban situation, with smaller, extended and decentralised cities..." (*Secretary-General, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, Habitat - Preparatory meetings for HABITAT II - 1994*).

From a global viewpoint, “medium-sized towns are nerve-centres of the territorial network structuring the world urban system, which is guided today by the economic globalisation dynamic...” (*Francine Fournier - UNESCO, 1999*). This economic globalisation has generated a new urban structure in which global cities and metropolises bring urban territorial systems into alignment with the global network and control the principal flows of information and capital. In addition to their highly specific roles of directing the system, they channel flows, which favour specific points within the global network, creating polarisation and a certain tendency to marginalise medium-sized towns. However, opportunities are emerging for medium- and small-sized centres to become a part of the global network with a view to joining larger networks, based on their geographical position and the possibilities for integral development (UIA - CIMES, 1999).

In the face of this process of urban growth, questions are being asked about the spatial effects of polarisation, concentration, territorial equilibrium and destabilisation of existing cities with relation to defects in infrastructure and basic services, housing, health, education, safety and employment issues.

However, it is interesting to note in this context that only a small proportion of the world urban population, 7%, lives in large cities of over 10 million people; 14% in cities of over 5 million; and the majority of the world’s urban population – 1 300 million, 56% – lives in medium-sized towns with fewer than 500 000 inhabitants which act as centres permitting relative access to goods and services of different qualities for the urban and rural populations.¹

Over the past 50 years, Latin America has seen a spectacular demographic growth. Population localisation and concentration processes were as much a result of the growth of some urban centres which became metropolises or megalopolises as of the progressive expansion of small towns as a consequence of the extraction of natural resources accompanied by the outward radiation of population throughout the territory (CEPAL, 1998).

The level of urbanisation in Latin America remains close to that seen in Europe and North America. In 1995, the Latin America-Caribbean region was the most urbanised in the developing world with 73.4% of its population resident in urban areas, a figure rising to 77.4% for South America (United Nations, 1997). Spatial distribution in Latin America is not homogeneous but varies considerably from country to country.

The heterogeneity of urban contexts and processes to be observed in Latin America makes it impossible and unwise to seek homogeneous and universally valid definitions in the area of human settlements (CEPAL, 1998). It is better to give a flexible definition to the term ‘medium-sized town’ in an operative perspective taking account of local conditions and the meaning attached to these conditions in each country.

The globalisation scenario will present many challenges for the medium-sized towns in the coming years: they will need to be able to consolidate and sustain themselves as hubs of a territorial network and, moreover, to assume the role of centres for balance and order, population distribution and economic, social and cultural development. These challenges will require a strong, non-partisan political awareness of the need for a consensual political framework (national, provincial and municipal) for development at territorial and local level, participation in far-reaching changes to organisation methods and means of managing local governments, as well as implementation of creative strategies of consultation and consensus with the various territorial players with a view to sustainable development.

¹ Source: United Nations 1997 and UIA - CIMES - *Medium-sized towns and world urbanisation 1999*

The questions to be asked at international level with regard to the roles which medium-sized towns can play in the move towards sustainable development are concerned with the contribution which these can make to more balanced urbanisation processes or as centres establishing more direct relationships with the surrounding economic and social area, and whether they have the capacities to offer a better quality of life depending on their scale or increased participation by their inhabitants in the government and management of the city (UIA - CIMES 1999).

Some of these generic questions on medium-sized towns are a part of the general debate on decentralisation and municipal governability, on the sustainability of the city in its quality of urban life, and on citizen participation and equity, which is currently taking place in the institutions and in the community.

Incorporating these dimensions in our geographic reality, of population and urban territorial distribution, will call for the ability to imagine broader scenarios than the "city" and its area of influence. To move towards thinking of a 'municipal region' as a higher scale of intervention, with better support from a critical mass of human and economic resources, with more possibilities to integrate multiple interconnected cities and communes, with differing roles depending on their abilities, and interacting in a process of shared development.

This vision, like a territorial utopia, means that the cities must develop capacities and skills of consultation, negotiation and consensus on economic development programmes and projects, as well as evaluating and prioritising financial resources for basic investment for strategic purposes, for infrastructure and territorial services, as part of a shared local development policy.

At international level, medium-sized towns are members of various major networks: URB-AL (European Union), the Latin American Municipal Training and Skills Development Network (CNFPT), the Programme for Medium-Sized Towns (UIA - CIMES), Management Experience Networks (PGU, Habitat, UN).

- **UIA-CIMES International Work Programme "Medium-sized towns and world urbanisation"**

Article based on a communication from Josep M^º Llop i Torné, Director of the Work Programme, Ajuntament de Lleida (Urbanism area), Plaça Paeria 1 - E-25071 LLEIDA (Spain), Tel: 34-973-700309 / Fax: 34-973-238953 E-mail: jmllop@paeria.es

Following on from the United Nations summits in Rio (1992) and from HABITAT II, in Istanbul (1996), the UIA-CIMES Programme has the objective of reflecting and drawing attention to so-called 'medium-sized towns' and their relationship to the process of world urbanisation. This term means towns of between 20 000 and 2 million inhabitants, but also cities which serve as intermediaries between megalopolises, directly linked at the level of economic globalisation, and the territories of the rest of the world.

Concern over high demographic growth, which raised the world population above 6 000 million, and analysis of the sudden growth of cities and of pockets of urbanisation are the foundations of the UIA-CIMES programme.

Through these medium-sized urban centres, the majority of the urban population and large portions of the rural population can have access to public and private services, to goods and to more or less specialised basic infrastructure. Despite the fact that these minor settlements are home to more than 50% of the urban population of the world, studies examining the particular issues facing them are few and far between.

It is exactly this role of “intermediation” between rural or natural territories forming the immediate surroundings of all medium-sized towns and big cities, metropolises or megalopolises which lies at the heart of their function of preservation or restoration of the balance between population and territory.

In this context, the UIA-CIMES work programme from the International Union of Architects is supported by the local government of the city of Lleida (Lérida, Catalonia, Spain). The programme presents the initial results of the first stage of work, published and presented during the XX UIA Conference in Beijing in July 1999. The second phase will be carried out until the XXI UIA Conference, due to be held in Berlin in July 2002. (For more information see: www.paeria.es/cimes).

The UIA-CIMES Programme is carrying out a study into cities in all the regions of the world. At present approximately 60 cities are covered. The study and the work by the different regional seminars should result in comments and proposals for discussion at the Berlin Conference.

- **International Digital Cities Network**

Article by Marie Virapatirin, head of the unit coordinating Network No 3 “Democracy in towns”.

The Information Society Technologies Conference brought together mayors and their representatives for the launch of a new information strategy: the Global City Dialogue, in Helsinki on 23 November 1999.

This is an initiative of the International Digital Cities Network and the “Stockholm Challenge Award”, led by the European Commission’s Information Society Activity Centre. The main objective is to give the cities concerned a new plan of action for the promotion of the information society: to foster the development of an egalitarian information society at international level with a view to responding to the challenges of globalisation.

The opportunity to reinforce the process started by the interchange of experiences and know-how will allow cities which are closer to their citizens to create privileged contacts in government and in the private sector on essential issues such as the world of government, local democracy and public services, and to work together on building an information society free of social exclusion, with a view to lasting development.

Cities have a primordial role to play as they are home to thousands of people directly exercising their rights as citizens and consumers. Given their position of proximity, cities face up to social developments and can bring about more effective changes to local democracy.

The city of Issy-les-Moulineaux, coordinator of Network No 3 "Democracy in towns" of the European URB-AL Programme, renowned for its experience and know-how put to use in further developing processes of direct democracy, will be the only French city represented in the "Global City Dialogue" session and calls on cities involved in its network and in the URB-AL programme to host or develop activities in the context of this project.

Several activities are already scheduled for the Global City Dialogue:

- **The meeting of mayors to promote and develop the Global City Dialogue**, to be held in Bremen on 8-9 February 2000.
- **The Stockholm Challenge Prize**, organised by the city of Stockholm in the context of the Bangemann world competition.
- **The 1st World Forum on Electronic Democracy**, organised by the city of Issy-les-Moulineaux and scheduled for 15-16 March 2000.
- The First Conference on Education and the Information Society which will take place in Rome in November 2000, in the framework of the **World Youth Challenge**.
- The International Conference on **Citizens, Cities and the New Information Economy, Strategies for Growth of Employment in Europe**, to be held in Helsinki on 7-8 December 2000.

If your city would like to become involved in the International Digital Cities Network please contact ISAC (Brussels). Committee Secretary:

Luis Lozano - Tel.: +32 2 296 82 13 - E-mail: lozano@cec.eu.int

For more general information on the Global City Dialogue, please contact the coordination Office of the Digital Cities Network (Brussels):

Tel.: +32 2 552 08 68 - E-mail: Telecities@mcr1.potel.org.uk

Useful addresses for the URB-AL programme

General information

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Biennial meetings

First biennial meeting
Coordination:
Ayuntamiento de Lisboa

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 Directora do Gabinete de Relações Internacionais
 Departamento de Apoio à Gestão
 e Actividade Institucional
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 griii@mail.cm-lisboa.pt
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Second biennial meeting
Coordination:
Ayuntamiento de Río de Janeiro

Sr. Cláudio García de Souza
 Coordenador
 Prefeitura da Cidade do Rio de Janeiro
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Thematic Networks

Network No 1 "Drugs and Towns" coordinated by the Municipalidad de Santiago de Chile

Mr Carlos Varas	Santiago (Chile)
Director para las Relaciones Internacionales	Tel.: +56 2 639 26 91
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Programa URB-AL - Red n° 1	stgoint@reuna.cl
Plaza de Armas s/n, Casilla 52-D	http://www.urb-al.cl

Network No 2 "Conservation of historic urban contexts", coordinated by the Province of Vicenza

Dott. Franco Pepe	I-36100 Vicenza (Italia)
Capo di Gabinetto	Tel.: +39 0444 399208
Amministrazione Provinciale di Vicenza	Fax: +39 0444 327825
Programma URB-AL - Rete n° 2	urb-al.rete2@provincia.vicenza.it
Contrà Gazzolle, 1	http://www.urb-al.net/rete2

Network No 3 "Democracy in towns", coordinated by the city of Issy-Les-Moulineaux

Mme. Marie Virapatirin	F-92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux (France)
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62, rue du Général Leclerc	urb-al@wanadoo.fr
	http://www.issy.com/urb-al

Network No 4 "The town as a promoter of economic development" coordinated by Madrid City Council

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Programa URB-AL - Red n° 4	merced@munimadrid.es
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Network No 5 "Urban social policies", coordinated by the Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo

Sra. Belela Herrera	11200 Montevideo (Uruguay)
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18 de Julio 1360 - Piso 25	http://montevideo.gub.uy/urbal.htm

Network No 7 "Management and control of urbanisation", coordinated by the Intendencia Municipal de Rosario

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Buenos Aires 711	sec_gral@rosario.gov.ar

Network No 8 "Control of urban mobility, coordinated by Stuttgart City Council

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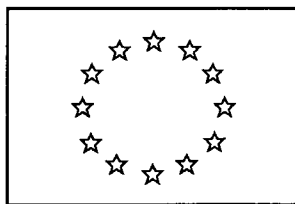
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