



European Regeneration Managers Network (ERMN)

QeC-ERAN
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MEMBERSHIP INFO PACKAGE

Why ERMN?

Quite simply, because there is no network operating at an EU level that focuses on the needs of key actors who are involved in Urban Regeneration. ERMN is unique in seeking to focus on individuals working in the public, private or third sector who are actively engaged in seeking to address urban complexities and opportunities. There is a need to create a mechanism at an EU level that enables such actors to connect with each other and also with the EU agenda. A number of developments highlight the need for such a network:

- The last 10 -15 years have seen a number of changes in relation to urban areas characterised by having high levels of diversity and social exclusion. In many such areas the general regeneration of cities in the 1990's has created an increasing investment in relation to physical regeneration – housing renewal and new build, transport infrastructure and economic infrastructure. This has been both private sector and public sector facilitated and financed. This renewal has transformed parts of such areas of deprivation and disadvantage. Such physical renewal has created new opportunities as well as new challenges and pressures.
- Linked to this physical regeneration there has also been a degree of improvement in human and social capital in such areas. This is particularly evident in relation to the growth of “cultural industries” and small enterprise development. These developments are challenging the continuing portrayal of such areas in terms of negative connections, e.g. “ghettos” and areas of “crisis”.
- However, it also needs to be recognised that alongside these developments, there are continuity trends which need more focussed and appropriate actions in the future. Such continuity trends are:
 - Persistence of high levels of long-term unemployment for certain groups (ethnic minorities, single parents, women, people with disabilities, older (45+) labour market participants
 - Labour market segmentation resulting in a high proportion of residents located in low paid work
 - High dependency on welfare benefits
 - Spatial and social segregation
 - Barriers to enterprise start up
 - A proportion of adult residents with low or no formal educational qualifications
 - Underachieving schools- particularly levels of young people completing, or failing to complete the formal period of compulsory schooling with no or only basic levels of skills and qualifications

- Interlocking problems relating to housing, health, poverty, crime and drugs
 - Environmental quality and security
 - Low participation levels in local decision making.
- Alongside these changes, the last period has also seen a plethora of initiatives targeted at urban areas in crisis. This has been evident at a European, national, regional and city level. This has created a degree of lack of co-ordination and relatedly unintended consequences. For example, housing renewal programmes have resulted in some cases in creating a high turnover of pupils in local schools – thus creating issues in respect of continuity and cohesion. In addition, initiatives have tended not to be holistic and thus re-enforced professional and institutional compartmentalism.
 - The complexity of areas with high diversity and exclusion requires greater integrated and cross-sector working. Multi-Agency working in turn generates a number of issues in respect to how to create the necessary structures that empower local actors. Public and private partnerships are also important. Creating a partnership which provides incentives for private investment alongside creating social benefit, requires new models for regeneration and partnership.
 - Areas of high diversity and exclusion have become increasingly less homogenous. Differences are observable within the same groups as well as differences between groups. This creates the need for an approach which moves away from classifying groups in broad homogenous terms e.g. race, gender and age. Exclusion, as has been well documented, is a multi-faceted process. It has both quantitative (e.g. economic, voter-turnout, income, welfare dependency, qualifications, etc.) and qualitative (poverty of relations, institutional discrimination, health, etc.) dimensions. Area based interventions/innovations need to re-think current homogenous stereotypical approaches and develop more multi-faceted/ dimensional approach. This requires connecting physical development more effectively with social and economic objectives. This also requires greater cross-discipline working and understanding.

Finally, at an EU level, we are now at the start of a new programming period (2007-2013) in which the “urban dimension” in regional policy has been decentralised to Member States. One of the goals of ERMN will be to generate feedback into EU institutions as how this process of decentralisation has (or has not) manifested itself.

What is ERMN? What will it provide?

ERMN is an online network of actors from the public, private and third sectors who are actively involved in urban regeneration. ERMN is open to:

- Employed persons
- Politicians
- Researchers
- Self-Employed persons

The use of the word "Manager" does not mean that ERMN is only open to those responsible for programme management. ERMN is for all those involved in projects/service delivery and research studies which are related to the urban context outlined above.

The short- and medium term goals of the network will be to:

- Provide a bi-monthly information service which keeps members updated in terms of EU Urban Policy developments and indeed the wider policy context that drives the EU Agenda
- Provide information regarding EU funding programmes
- To undertake training needs analysis of a sample of members
- To establish an online ERMN Platform that will enable members to network with each other, provide discussion forum space as well as creating a unique data base of practice/case studies and providing the means for taking part in EU consultation in relation to the Urban agenda.

The long term goals (2008 and onwards) will be to secure funding that will enable us to create an online academy providing two or three face to face seminars per year PLUS online modules that reflect the needs of members as identified through the training needs audit. The aim is to provide a choice of online modules that will be certified by a number of participating universities. The long term goal will be to create a route for acquiring an Urban Regeneration Managers qualification at a European level.

How will ERMN work? How Can I Join?

There is no charge for being a member of ERMN. It is **free** to join. However, whilst there is no charge, we want to ensure that ERMN provides real added value to members.

In order to achieve this we want to ensure that there are minimum standards created in establishing the network and developing our short, medium and long terms goals.

What this means is that if you wish to become a member, you will be required to:

- Submit a standard Proforma profile about yourself which will be placed on the Online Platform. This will take 20 minutes to complete
- Complete a skills and training questionnaire as this will inform the medium and long term strategy. The questionnaire will take about 30-40 minutes to complete.

Once these two requirements have been fulfilled you will start receiving the bi-monthly newsletter and other regular updates. Once the online platform is established (by the end of May 2007) you will also be able to access the database.

Once you are member, you can be as active as you wish. The Online Platform will provide you with a means for generating discussion forums on specific issues that you are wanting to debate. In addition, via member profiles you can also identify and network with actors engaged in similar fields of work.

ERMN will be providing its services in four working languages: English, French, Italian and Spanish.

What is QeC ERAN?

Based in Brussels, QEC-ERAN is a network of EU cities/towns/district councils as well as strategic NGOs, all of whom are connected by being involved in national, regional and EU policies and programmes concerned with Area-based regeneration. Established in 1989, it is one of the longest established networks in relation to the theme of urban regeneration and remains committed to being at the leading edge in relation to the changing realities experienced by regeneration areas.

The objectives of QEC-ERAN are:

- Developing programmes/projects which facilitate the exchange of experience and practise made in regeneration of such areas
- Supporting initiative based on integrative and participatory approach for a balanced development of the areas and targeted groups
- Promoting joint up working and thinking between local authorities and experts on the urban issue and other key agencies, in particular local NGOs

- Undertaking research and evaluation in order to impact on existing and future Urban regeneration policies/programmes
- Representing the views and needs of the deprived neighbourhoods within EU and EC groupings and networks
- Creating a network which constitutes a European “think tank” regarding the issue of diversity, integration, social and economic exclusion and urban regeneration.

QEC-ERAN has been one of the founding European bodies in relation to the development of area based, integrated approaches to Urban Regeneration.

QeC-ERAN has accumulated 17 years of experiences on urban regeneration issues across Europe during the programming period of the Urban pilot projects and the URBAN initiative. Through our work it has become increasingly evident that we need to create a knowledge base on these experiences and support the European wide exchange of know-how between urban regeneration actors working on the regeneration issue.

For Further Information

If you want to know more, please send an email to anyone of the QeC-ERAN team listed below. The language skills of each team member are also indicated.

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