

# MetroNet

A Transnational Partnership Project

## MetroNet position paper

MetroNet is a unique network of different types of organisations developing and implementing local strategies for employment and social inclusion in a number of European cities. MetroNet evolved from a transnational network created to support EU local employment initiatives, including Territorial Employment Pacts. The organisations involved in the network have much in common, especially their strong commitment to tackling issues of unemployment and social exclusion, in a context of evolving local development policy and ethnic and cultural diversity.

MetroNet is a vehicle for inter-city and inter-organisational collaboration in promoting the empowerment of local actors through the local aspect of EU policy on employment and social affairs, and for developing the local dimension of EU strategies on employment, social inclusion and local development.

For the European Union to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion – Lisbon Declaration of the European Council, March 2000



## The Aims of MetroNet

- MetroNet is a unique network of different types of organisations developing and implementing local strategies for employment and social inclusion in a number of European cities;
- Member organisations of MetroNet are regional and local authorities, partnerships of public, private and voluntary interests, and other local development organisations.
- MetroNet is a learning partnership providing a forum for these organisations both to exchange ideas, strategies, best practice and methodologies, and to co-operate through transnational partnership projects in developing and delivering innovative local policy and practice.
- MetroNet is a vehicle for inter-city and inter-organisational collaboration in promoting the empowerment of local actors through the local aspect of EU policy on employment and social affairs, and for developing the local dimension of EU strategies on employment, social inclusion and local development.

## The Partners in MetroNet

MetroNet is a unique network of different types of organisations developing and implementing local strategies for employment and social inclusion in various European cities. These include regional and local authorities, partnerships of public, private and voluntary interests, and other local development organisations, as follows:

City	Partner organisation	Organisation type
Berlin	gsub-Gesellschaft für soziale Unternehmensberatung mbH local development agency	Labour market and
Bremen	Bremen-Bremerhafen Regionales Beschaeftigungsbuendnis	Regional Employment Pact
Copenhagen	Kobenhavens Kommune Affairs	City Department of Labour
Dublin	Dublin Employment Pact	Regional Employment Pact
Hamburg	Laewetz Stiftung	Local development organisation
London	Haringey Council	Local authority
Rome	CIOFS-FP	Training agency of the Salesian Order
Santander	Documenta	Local development and vocational training agency
Stockholm	City of Stockholm	Social Services Administration, City Department of Social Affairs
Vienna	Wiener Arbeitnehmerinnen Foerderungsfond (WAFF)	Vienna Employment Promotion Fund

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## A European Partnership for Urban Development

MetroNet meets twice annually and functions in the context of open coordination. Membership of the network is by application or invitation agreed at one of the regular meetings of the network. MetroNet does not have a central secretariat or managing agency, but may be contacted through any of its partners.

Meetings of MetroNet are structured as follows:

- Presentations and discussion on key aspects of EU employment and social inclusion policy and their implementation at local level;
- Presentation of examples of good practice in social inclusion and labour market integration;
- Discussion of policy areas of common concern, introduced by relevant experts;
- Progress reports on transnational projects in which member cities and organisations are involved and discussion of concrete proposals for further joint actions by the partners in the network.

MetroNet partners collaborate on a practical basis through transnational projects in the context of EU local development, employment and social inclusion programmes and also aim to impact on policy development at EU level through the strategic learning from this collaboration.

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## The Origins and Development of MetroNet

MetroNet grew from a collaborative network of Territorial Employment Pacts. The concept of a free spirit transnational network was developed in Bremen in January 1998 and formalised in Copenhagen in March 1998. Its work began with a series of practical workshops and study visits in London, Stockholm, Hamburg, Malmo, Copenhagen, Brussels and Berlin.

MetroNet also collaborated in two EU transnational innovation projects. The first project was supported by the Commission under the programme Preparatory actions to combat and prevent social exclusion. This involved eight cities and sought to identify good practice in neighbourhood renewal and models of neighbourhood management. The project encompassed a comparative analysis of current trends, problems and causes of concentrations of social exclusion and disadvantage, analysed neighbourhood management structures and actions implemented by local partnerships, and examined models of good practice.

The second project, called AVALON, was an ambitious transnational collaboration funded under the Commission programme Preparatory measures for a local commitment to employment. This involved a comparative study, which sought to identify the critical success factors in local employment initiatives, in particular the impact of the level of commitment from the private sector in local employment partnerships at both a strategic and project level. The project methodology involved an analysis of local conditions, identification of good practice, exchange of experts and a benchmarking process. The complexity of methods used in this project tested the commitment of MetroNet partners and laid the foundation for continued collaboration.

Following the conclusion of AVALON, the MetroNet partners met in Hamburg in December 2001 to lay the basis for their continued collaboration and in the follow-up meeting in April 2002 in Rome adopted the strategy set out in this brochure.

**‘For the European Union to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion’ – *Lisbon Declaration of the European Council, March 2000***

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## Working within EU Social and Economic Policy

Through a range of programmes the European Commission encouraged local development and employment initiatives over the period 1994 to 1999. The measures were endorsed by all Community institutions and were largely taken up by the regions and municipalities. This policy direction was reinforced following the adoption of the Amsterdam Treaty in

**MetroNet has its roots in this period of Commission innovation and risk taking. Effective analysis of current social policy instruments will form the key to future transnational collaboration in areas of research and innovation**

1996, which required the EU to develop a European Employment Strategy. Initiatives introduced since then for developing local development, employment and social inclusion programmes have formed an increasingly co-ordinated strategy and this trend has been restated with the commitment to the holding of a Local Development Forum in early 2004 within the context of the mid-term review of the 2001-2006 Programme.

The information gained from various European pilot programmes and territorial employment pacts has confirmed the value of the local initiatives approach. While the cost of jobs created varies according to the country and occupational area, in most cases local partnership employment initiatives have proved to be more efficient than conventional job creation schemes.

MetroNet has its roots in this period of Commission innovation and risk taking. Effective analysis of current social policy instruments will form the key to future transnational collaboration in areas of research and innovation.

The Commission has for the first time produced a policy document on poverty and social exclusion. The document provides an analysis of the situation across all member states and identifies the key challenges for the future. This policy statement will inform the

collaboration of the MetroNet partners.

The report promotes the use of common indicators to measure poverty and social exclusion and provides an analysis of the different approaches of member states set out in National Action Plans (NAPs). It also highlights the key role social policy has to play alongside economic and employment policy in reducing inequalities and promoting social cohesion. It is an important element in the EU social agenda agreed in Nice and complements the objectives of the EU employment strategy.

At Lisbon in 2000 the EU member states made a new commitment to promote sustainable economic growth and quality employment, so as to reduce the risk of poverty and social exclusion as well as strengthen social cohesion in the union between 2001-2010.

The EU has established a new open method of co-ordination, which encourages member states to work together to improve the impact on social inclusion of policies relating to social protection, employment, health, housing and education. The NAPs process and the development of comparable indicators provide the framework for promoting the exchange of good practice and mutual learning at a Community level. This is to be supported from 2002 by a five year Community Action Programme on social exclusion.

The EU report on social inclusion provides a framework for the future collaboration of the MetroNet partners and for their engagement in a collective dialogue with the Commission on the development of local action plans to tackle social exclusion. It also sets the context for the involvement of MetroNet partners in transnational projects around preparatory measures to develop local action plans for social inclusion.



# The Partners in MetroNet

## Berlin



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gsub is a social business consultancy. Our main activities involve developing employment opportunities in private sector companies and delivering labour market services for public authorities. Our core principle is to combine business goals with social commitment.

gsub has delivered the general labour market policy programme of the State of Berlin since 1991 and is responsible for administrating funds on behalf of the Department for Economy, Labour and Women's Affairs of the Berlin Senate.

gsub also works on contract to the European Commission and to various national ministries (Federal Ministry of Labour; Federal Ministry of Families, Youth, Women and Older People and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research).

gsub allocates wage subsidies, finances training initiatives and further education projects, and provides job placement and other employment services.

gsub also designs and implements European projects through networks of European partners. It has a staff of 65 and in 2001 had a turnover of €4.2 m.

## Bremen

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The Freie Hansestadt Bremen is the smallest of Germany's 16 states, consisting of the cities of Bremen und Bremerhaven. The Senator for Labour, Women, Health, Youth and Social Welfare is one of seven members of the Bremer Senate, the state's government. The department 'Labour Affairs' with its sub-department 'Labour Market Policy' is responsible for developing active and preventive labour market policy instruments to combat unemployment over the long term.

The measures implemented promote the integration of jobless people into working life, protect existing jobs as well as foster the creation of new jobs. This active labour market policy thus supports structural change in the Bremen economy. The aim of this active labour market policy is also to prevent long term unemployment and it therefore also develops specific instruments for target groups, such as migrant workers, young people, women returners and older people. Labour market and social policy also focuses on there- integration of people in receipt of social assistance.



 Der Senator für  
Arbeit, Frauen, Gesundheit, Jugend und Soziales

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The Pact for Work and Vocational Training in Bremen and Bremerhaven mobilises all relevant regional actors (senate departments, employment agencies, chambers, social partners, etc.) to work together to optimise a regional strategy for Bremen. The Pact is organised in three working-groups (vocational training and combating unemployment among young people, labour market policy, and economic policy). The pact is co-ordinated by the Senator for Labour, Women, Health, Youth and Social Welfare.

## Copenhagen



text for Copenhagen

## Dublin

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The Dublin Employment Pact was established in 1998 to tackle employment and development policy issues in the Dublin region, and to develop innovative and sustainable solutions.

Representatives of over 70 public, private and community organisations and authorities contribute to the work of the Pact. These include the Dublin regional and local authorities, organisations from the local development and community sector, the social partners, relevant government departments and statutory agencies.

The Pact works through six Working Groups, on Social and Economic Policy, Labour Market Policy, Education and Employment, Local Development and Social Economy, Growth Bottlenecks and Equal. It is funded under the National Development Plan (Local Development and Social Inclusion Programme) as an independent non-profit development company. It undertakes research, develops and manages innovative pilot projects, develops policy initiatives and promotes strategies for their implementation.

As a member of Eurocities and Metronet, the Pact also organises and manages partnerships engaged in EU projects on employment, local development and social inclusion.



## Hamburg



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The Lawaetz Foundation was established in 1986 by the Free Hanseatic City of Hamburg. It is financed mainly by the local authorities (Department for Economic and Labour Market Policy, Department for Family and Social Policy) and the European Commission (European Social Fund).

The foundation has a staff of 35 and has two main sections:

- 1) Consultancy (knowledge management) and
- 2) Project development and project management.

The Lawaetz Foundation is an intermediary organisation engaged in the fields of labour market- and social policy and in urban development and neighbourhood management.

## London

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Haringey is one of London's 33 boroughs, located in the north of the capital and roughly 30Km<sup>2</sup> in area. Around half its 216,800 residents come from minority ethnic backgrounds, including Greek and Turkish Cypriot, African and Caribbean, Turkish, Indian, Bangladeshi and Irish. Recently Kurdish and Somali refugees have settled in Haringey too. A total of 193 languages have been identified as used locally. In 2000 Haringey ranked as the 20th most deprived district in England.



## Rome



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CIOFS-FP is a non profit association established through the Salesian Order of Sisters. Inspired by the vision and example of Don Bosco in the 19th century, CIOFS-FP focuses its activities on employment and vocational training. A pioneer in the area of vocational training, Don Bosco drafted the first apprenticeship contract in Italian history. Mother Mazzarello laid the basis for the modern vocational training of young women through her workroom in Mornese.

With its head office in Rome, CIOFS-FP operates in 15 Italian Regions through its local boards and 100 local training centres. The work of the Association includes vocational training, career guidance, services to local enterprises and special needs. It provides training, workshops, transnational exchanges, research and work-oriented services. The main groups benefiting from this work are young people, women, unemployed, immigrants and prisoners.

In 2000 the National Centre was awarded a Certificate of Quality Management System Standard UNI EN ISO 9001(2000) by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance for its design and provision of vocational training services, especially initial vocational training, lifelong learning and personal development. The centre also provides research and design services, tutor's training and consultancy for planning and managing vocational training and guidance services. The Centre is also engaged in the organisation and management of partnership networks for such services.

## Santander

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DOCUMENTA, the European Institute for Training and Development Studies in Santander (Spain) is a non-profit institution specialising in local economic development issues, specialising in project design and project delivery. Its main areas of activities are:

- Cross sector studies and Strategic Plans for Local Economic Development;
- Design and performance of Training/Employment Plans and actions;
- Fostering self-employment and New Sources of Employment;
- Management of European Projects;
- Participation in project development in Third Countries.

In the last years DOCUMENTA has managed many European projects under various European Initiatives such as ADAPT, YOUTHSTART, INNOVATIVE ACTIONS ART.10, FEDER, CONNECT, the SME PROGRAM, and is currently managing several projects under the EQUAL Initiative and Article 6, ESF in collaboration with the Government of Cantabria, the City Councils of Santander, Torrelavega, Astillero and Escalante... as well as various European Institutions and organisations.



## Stockholm



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There are 18 District Councils in the City of Stockholm. Their areas of responsibility are: municipal pre-school services, municipal compulsory school, individual and family services, recreational and cultural activities, official consultative body, care of people with disabilities, consumer advisory services, environmental work, maintenance of streets and parks, elderly care.

Europaforum Stockholm was created by Stockholm City Council and co-ordinates and integrates EU policy and initiatives with the day to day work of the City. It reports directly to the City Executive Board and works with the District Councils.

Europaforum encompasses different thematic areas, including urban policy, IT, transport, city planning, culture, integration and employment. The Social Services Administration, which oversees employment and social affairs of Stockholm City, is involved in city-wide programmes in areas such as reducing substance abuse, supporting crime-prevention, developing measures to reduce dependency on social assistance, increasing the freedom of choice for people with disabilities, supporting people with physical disabilities to have meaningful daily activities, and tackling homelessness and domestic violence against women. It works through the District Councils and co-operates with various NGOs in all these areas of work.

## Vienna

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Vienna, with 1.5m inhabitants, is the administrative, economic and cultural capital of Austria, with a labour force of over 760.000 employees, approximately one quarter of the total Austrian labour force. The unemployment rate of 4.9 % is relatively low (national rate: 3.8 %). Groups in the Viennese labour market experiencing major problems include young people, the long-term-unemployed and migrants. Targeted labour market measures have already achieved significant improvements.

The waff - Vienna Employment Promotion Fund - was founded in 1995 by the City of Vienna and the social partners as an innovation centre for development in the regional labour market and economy. It is a partner in the Vienna Territorial Employment Pact, which is an effective partnership involving the Vienna Public Employment Service, the Federal Office for Social Affairs and the Disabled and more than 60 NGOs.

The City of Vienna finances the waff and its three subsidiaries. These provide integration programmes for unemployed persons, counselling services to assist job mobility, a non profit temp agency and services co-ordinating EU-programmes and local employment pacts in the city.



Vienna Employment  
Promotion Fund **waff**