

From:
Jan Vogelij,
ECTP-CEU representative to the NTCCP and UDG

Re:
NTCCP

**REPORT ON NTCCP MEETING
UNDER HUNGARIAN EU PRESIDENCY**

The Network of Territorial Cohesion Contact Persons was held in the Ministry of Interior in Budapest on February 9.

Main items on the agenda with regard to the ECTP-CEU interest, were the revision of the Territorial Agenda and the future of the Espon programme.

The first Territorial Agenda of the European Union, which prepares gradually for a European spatial development policy was, as a result of the Rotterdam Acquis in 2004, adopted in Leipzig in 2007.

Since then many developments took place (crisis/climate), and on basis of an evaluation of the Leipzig text, Hungary was to prepare a more topical policy paper.

During months delegates contributed to the paper and it gradually develops in a consensus about the importance of planning for spatial developments as a strategic tool for Europe's development. Territorial Cohesion is seen as a common goal for a more harmonious state of Europe. Challenges for territorial development are discussed as driving forces and with their territorial implications, and the governance and implementation aspects are discussed under the heading: Making EU Territorial Cohesion a Reality.

As the ECTP-CEU representative I commented and contributed to several texts which affect planning practice.

More specifically I proposed a dedicated text about capacity building on strategic spatial planning for regions and cities, thereby recommending cooperation with national associations of planners and with the ECTP-CEU.

With regard to the future of the ESPON programme, there is a proposal to organise ESPON a bit more independent from the Member States, in such a way that the extreme bureaucratic burden for service providers to carry out studies in the ESPON programme will be diminished. The standpoint I presented refers to the actual character of present ESPON products, being too theoretical and too abstract for application by planning practitioners in the cities and the regions. This is supported by a position paper (memo) that is attached to this report.

JCV
16/02/2011
