



European Port Cities: Disadvantaged Urban Areas in Transition

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to Combat Social Exclusion

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Transnational Exchange Programme

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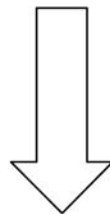
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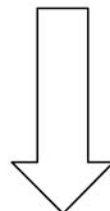


European Port Cities: Disadvantaged Urban Areas in Transition

Gaining Expert Knowledge "From Below"



Strengthening Participation & Empowerment



Increasing Visibility & Respect

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1. Introduction

The following report gives a summary overview over activities and preliminary results of the first year of this partnership. According to the original work schedule as outlined in the application, the activities for the first year were concentrated on three fields:

- a) extending the network set up in phase I and developing a joint set of objectives for the partnership,
- b) gathering in-depth ethnographic data on specific skills and cultural knowledge, related to strategies of livelihood of socially excluded actors,
- c) developing and establishing local programmes aiming at the implementation of good practice in mobilising skills and knowledge of socially excluded actors.

A preliminary overview over findings and programmes is included in the Interim Report.

At the end of the first year, significant *changes in project design* and planning were introduced following consultations with the EU commission 's representative for this project. As these changes are currently being implemented and will be addressed in detail in reports on Year 2, a major focus of this report will be on analysing the processes and problems which have lead to these changes.

2. Aims and Issues Addressed by the Partnership (Summary)

This partnership is concerned with *disadvantaged urban areas* in European Port Cities. In the context of globalisation, port cities have been affected by massive economic and technological changes, resulting in the continuous degradation of traditional port areas. As former port functions have moved away from the city centres, port-related markets for (often casual and unsteady) labour have declined, leading to a loss of work opportunities, a degradation of living conditions and to a devaluation of traditional forms of social organisation among the inhabitants of port quarters.

At the same time, port cities also serve as transit points and interfaces of transnational migration. Port quarters, as other devaluated and disadvantaged urban areas, have become the home of new groups of socially excluded actors like migrants and refugees, whose legal and economic status are often characterized by a high degree existential insecurity. They, as well as the local inhabitants, strive to carve out their livelihoods by a variety of small-scale economic activities related to the informal and / or illegalised economic sector.

The common focus of this partnership is the *variety of livelihoods and survival strategies* developed by actors under these conditions of extreme economic, social and legal insecurity. Although the social groups addressed are as heterogeneous as the problems they are facing, the common denominator for all projects in this partnership is a focus on *identifying and strengthening the cultural knowledge and specific skills* related to their mode of subsistence. Thus, the *primary aims of this partnership* relate to:

- Gaining in-depth knowledge about specific strengths, strategies and problem-solving solutions developed under conditions of extreme insecurity,
- Setting up networks for information exchange and learning from good practice of projects strengthening the participation and empowerment of excluded actors and their specific assets,
- Increasing the visibility of these actors and promoting a sense of respect for their ways of livelihood in the general public.

This partnership was developed out of an already existing network of researchers concerned with ethnographic studies among migrants / refugees, homeless people, and the urban poor. In former projects, local co-operations between researchers and various organisations of social work had already proved to be successful. This principle of local networking (including official and unofficial partners), now forms a core of this partnership.

The *new and added value* derived from this partnership has been the close co-operation and exchange of ideas and results between *institutions of research* and of *social work in practice*, both contributing their specific perspective, methods and professional networks. The common aim is to identify and to enhance existing assets of actors affected by social exclusion and to strengthen their participation. This presupposes an in-depth knowledge of their social organization, cultural knowledge and specific forms of communication, which is to be provided by ethnographic research, complementing the experience of practice-oriented organisations.

However, this heterogeneous composition of the partnership also entails some potential problems (i. e. in finding a common language and in developing joint ways of exchanging information), which had to be overcome before a common course of action could be established.

3. The Cases – City-Port Development and Actors Affected by Social Exclusion



Illustration 1: Locations of Case Studies

The twin ports of **Algeciras** and **Ceuta** are characterised by their position as gateways from Africa into Europe. Algeciras is Spain's most important trade- and passenger port and a centre of illegal transfer of goods and people. The contested status of **Ceuta** as a Spanish enclave in Moroccan territory has also led to specific consequences for this city's development. As in Ceuta, the port of Algeciras is currently being expanded. Both port cities are typical places of transit characterised by a dense port atmosphere, beggars, street vendors, drug addicts and homeless. Migration and ethnic heterogeneity are shaping the image of these cities, many of the inhabitants being transients on their way into Europe.

Emigration and the diaspora experience have long been major theme of Irish identity, but today, Ireland has become a country of immigration as well. Migrants and

refugees are now often seen as a potential threat in competing for scarce opportunities in the informal economic sector, and in contesting the use of urban space. Although **Dublin's** urban imagery has not been primarily connected to the port, the Irish capital also serves as an example of the consequences of global city-port developments. After the major port functions had been moved out of the city, former working class areas fell into dereliction and are now being targeted for urban renewal. Nonetheless, Dublin's dockside areas still show a high potential for self-organisation, based on traditional local identities and still-functioning neighbourhood networks.

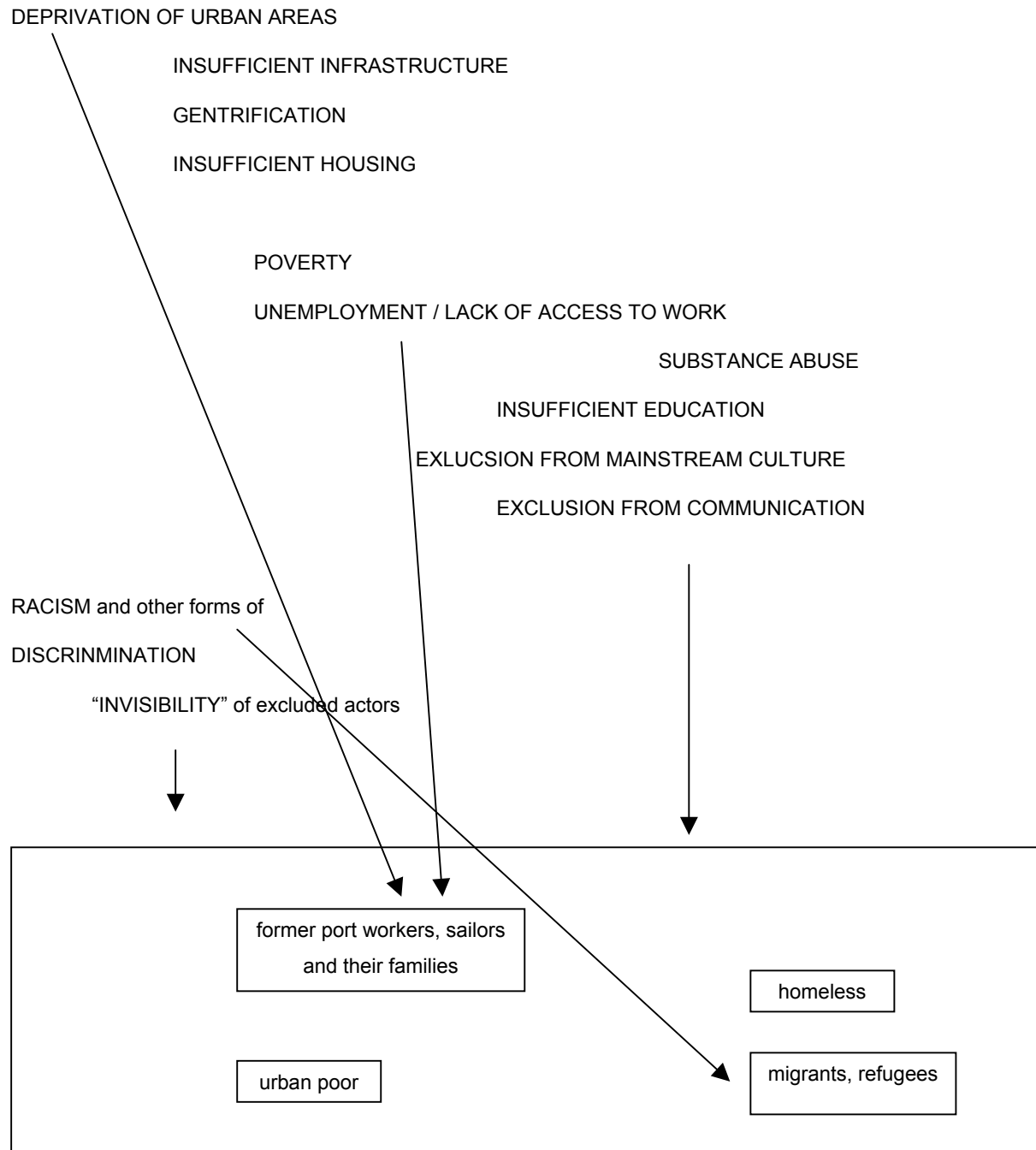
After regaining its Eastern European hinterland, the port city of **Hamburg** has increased its international importance since the beginning of the 1990s. As in Dublin, major port functions have been shifted and vast areas of the former port are targeted for development. In consequence, transformation processes have been affecting not only the immediate waterfront, but also related residential areas. In the case of Hamburg, our ethnographic research has been mainly focusing on contested urban space: on traditionally port-related quarters like St. Pauli in the face of urban renewal, as well as on homelessness in the city's central business district.

In the 19th century, **London** was the centre of the British empire, as well as its largest port city. After a period of decline, large scale urban regeneration projects have been effected in the London Docklands, serving as a prototype for dockland development schemes in many other port cities around the world. Nonetheless, neighbouring residential areas like Canning Town have become London's most deprived urban areas, characterized by multiethnic populations, crime and racial incidents.

Similar to Hamburg, the port of **Thessaloniki** has regained its hinterland after the nineteen-nineties, and is now considered a major gateway between Eastern Europe and the European Union. As a Mediterranean city, Thessaloniki has become a port of entrance for migrants and illegal refugees from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, many of them entering via Turkey. As in London, Dublin and Hamburg, urban renewal programmes have affected the former inner city port and waterfront area and the neighbouring port quarters. Port-related professions and crafts have been losing their economic basis and traditional social organisation. Many former port workers, as well as migrants and refugees, have turned to street vending, peddling and other forms of itinerant trade as a mode of subsistence.

4. Overview: Factors of Social Exclusion in Disadvantaged Urban Areas

Groups and actors particularly affected by **social and economic transformation processes** in these cities thus include individuals or families affected or threatened by poverty (particularly elderly and youth/children), former dockworkers, sailors and other professions living in and of the port, homeless people, forced migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. The main problems addressed by the work of all partners relate to poor housing conditions or homelessness, insufficient access to urban infrastructure, alcoholism, insecure and / or illegalised strategies of livelihood (informal economic sector), the insecurity of legal status (i. e. refugees), racism and gender-related discrimination.



5. The Partners – Short Summary of Profile and Experience


5.1. Organisations of Social Work / Practice Programmes

Hinz und Kunzt

Hinz und Kunzt is the street newspaper with the highest distribution figures in Germany. The magazine, which appears monthly, is produced by professional journalists for a general readership in and around Hamburg and is sold on the streets by homeless people or those in danger of becoming so. Selling the magazine is a chance for them to help themselves. The magazine focuses upon major social issues as well as issues specific to Hamburg. It introduces local artists and gives homeless people a space to express their views and opinions. It reaches out to young and old as well as to rich and poor.

Hinz und Kunzt not only acts as a lobby for the homeless and other socially excluded people, it also helps to bridge the gap between different social groups in Hamburg. In addition to the independence offered by magazine sales, we offer our vendors services such as social aid, pro bono legal work and assistance in finding apartments and dealing with the authorities. Hinz und Kunzt does not receive any governmental or church subsidies. The project is financed through the magazine sales, advertising and fund raising. Hinz und Kunzt is a member of the "International Network of Street Papers" (INSP), with which many street newspapers worldwide are associated.

Contact:

 DAS HAMBURGER STRASSEN MAGAZIN	Altstädter Twiete 1-5 20095 Hamburg Germany	Phone: +49 40 32108 – 311 Fax: +49 40 30399 – 638 E-Mail: g.koch@hinzundkunzt.de Internet: http://www.hinzundkunzt.de/
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ARSIS - Association for the Social Support of Youth

The Association for the Social Support of Youth (ARSIS) deals with homeless people in Thessaloniki. A group of volunteer street workers establish contact with homeless people on the streets, in order to establish a trusting relationship with them and to

refer them to ARSIS support services, where a social workers examines their exact needs, deals with them or refers them to other services. ARSIS' main activities include street work, provision of material goods (food and clothes), social and psychological support , referral to other services, and sensitisation of the local community through public events and networking.

Besides the connections involved in this partnership, ARSIS has also established close networks to other NGOS, social services, churches, hospitals, the police and other institutions in Greece.

Contact:

	35 Ptolemeon Street 54630 Thessaloniki Greece	Phone: ++30-2310-526150 Fax: ++30-2310-552813 E-mail: infothes@arsis.gr
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CRTV – Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture and Other Forms of Abuse

The Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture and Other Forms of Abuse (CRTV) maintains several branches in Greece. The centre in Rhodes Island, one of the major entry ports for refugees, provides the most urgent services for asylum seekers. Their action reaches from legal counselling to translation services, from supply of medical care and first aid to psychological support.

The centre in Thessaloniki focuses on closing the communication gap between the refugees and the host society by providing English and Greek language classes and introducing them to Greek culture. One further focus lies on women asylum seekers who suffer from specific problems.

CRTV cooperates with Amnesty International, Greek Section, the Hellenic Red Cross, the Volunteer Samaritans Corps, the Greek Helsinki Monitor, the Greek Council for the Refugees and UNHCR.

Contact:


	9 Morgentau Street 54622 Thessaloniki Greece	Phone: ++30-2310-226403 E-mail: crtv@hol.gr
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ARASI – Association of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Association of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (ARASI) provides a wide range of services for refugees and asylum seekers in Dublin and Ireland. They offer support for immigrants in the process of seeking asylum and have various programmes for refugees. Special attention is paid to single parents, youths outside of parental care, entrepreneurs and community leaders.

ARASI is linked to various other organisations in Ireland that deal with refugees and asylum seekers.


Contact:

	213 North Circular Road Dublin 7 Ireland	Phone: ++353-1-8381142 E-mail: arasi_@eircom.net
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Evangelisch-Lutherische Flussschiffergemeinde

The members of the Inland Sailor's Church Community (Flussschiffergemeinde) are characterised by a strong sense of belonging. Being located on a ship, the floating church is a very popular institution closely associated with Hamburg's maritime image. Besides providing regular church services and a wide range of community activities, the floating church serves as a forum for bringing the needs and problems of sailors and other port-related groups to the attention of a wider public.

Contact:

	Pastor Frank. Engelbrecht Katharinenkirchhof 1 20457 Hamburg Germany	Phone: ++49-40-303747-33 Fax ++49-40-303747-59 E-mail: bien@bienweb.org
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5.2. Research Institutions


University of East London, School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies

UEL is located in the London Dockland area. The intellectual agenda of the School is to intervene at international level in the development of the social sciences, cultural studies and media. It promotes a historicized, gendered and interdisciplinary approach to the study of the social sciences, cultural studies and media.

The Refugee Research Centre (RRC) at UEL acts as partner in this project. It is a multidisciplinary centre dedicated to the study of forced migration at the local, national and global levels. It brings together staff and students from across UEL and other institutions, and practitioners and professionals from statutory and voluntary bodies. The RRC adopts a refugee-centred approach to conceptual and policy/practice-related issues, undertaking research projects in areas including globalisation and migration, ethnicity and racism; human rights and refugee law; well-being of refugees; refugee education; needs of refugee children; transnational communities, diaspora and the cultures of exile.

Within the framework of this partnership, the Refugee Research Centre is exploring how refugees and asylum seekers in East London experience social exclusion and inclusion, and how they develop survival strategies in this urban area in transition.

Contact:


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University of Macedonia Thessaloniki, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies

The Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies is an interdisciplinary department, including economic studies and social studies (sociology, history, culture and political science). One focus of research is related to social integration policies

for migrants and refugees in Eastern and South Eastern Europe focusing on causes and consequences of voluntary and forced migration.


Contact:

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University of Dublin, Department of Sociology – Trinity College

The focus of research in Trinity College in Dublin has been on race and ethnic studies, sociology of development, population society and development, migration; with specific reference to refugees and asylum seekers in Ireland, inter racial marriage and on issues of the "new migration" into Europe. Within the framework of this partnership the research interest is focused on the peripheral status of the refugee community in Dublin and Ireland.


Contact:

	Dr. Treasa Galvin Foster Place Dublin 2 Ireland	Phone: ++353-1-608 26 21 E-Mail: tmgalvin@tcd.ie
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University of Nijmegen, Institute for Cultural Anthropology

The Institute of Nijmegen has been concentrating its research on border areas in the era of global transformation processes and the resulting exclusion of "new migrants". Borders, global processes, clandestine immigration, port-city interface, social exclusion, racism, contestation over waterfront space, ethnic enclavement, informal ethnic infrastructure and transnationalism are relevant key words for research in the Western Mediterranean (fieldwork in Ceuta and Algeciras).


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Hamburg University, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology

Studies of migration, diaspora and urban anthropology have been a major focus of the institute's research and teaching activities. One focus of research at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology has been on migration and diaspora, resulting in a number of case studies on various diasporas. An international conference on „*Locality, Identity and Diaspora*“ was organised by the Institute (February 2000). In Hamburg, the project at issue is integrated into a broader research programme, comparing structural changes in European and Latin American port cities.

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6. Activities of Partner Organizations in Year 1

Since most of the activities of Year I took place before a changed course of action was designed for this project, there has been a strong emphasis on ethnographic research and on individual programme development, in addition to the establishment and maintenance of joint network activities. As a more detailed overview over preliminary results of this phase has already been given in an addendum to the Interim Report, a short summary of the research and programme activities will be presented at this point.

6.1. Dublin

During Year I, intensified ethnographic field work has been carried out by researchers from Trinity College in former dock-related areas (Pearse Street, City Quay, Ringsend, North and East Wall) as well as in Dublin's inner city. Groups and **actors particularly affected by social exclusion** include former dock workers' communities (particularly elderly, youth and families living in poverty) as well as migrants and refugees in these areas.

Thus, urgent **issues** relate to poor housing conditions, exclusion from urban space as a result of gentrification, insufficient access to urban infrastructure, as well as unemployment, insufficient schooling, alcoholism and a high crime rate in these urban areas. Nonetheless, a strong **potential for self-organisation and empowerment** could be identified in these studies in a functioning neighbourhood structure, close social networks and community centres, based on strong sense of tradition and local identity.

All former port-related communities have established a large variety of local initiatives (e.g. community centres) fighting the current problems. They deal with social and educational concerns, offer training courses for women or long-term unemployed people, they care for elderly residents or offer child-care facilities. Some focus on the planning process and protest against some of the plans of urban renewal. Others are more concerned with preserving the working-class, dock-specific culture of the area. preserving oral histories and restoring material traces of the area's heritage.

Informal **networks** have always been essential for the life in the dockland communities. From the hey-days of the docks until today, informal networks have been used to find work, housing, and mutual assistance of all sorts. Family networks

seem to be particularly important. Women play an outstanding role in maintaining this social capital and keeping the community together. Neighbourhood networks are also important means of social control, although this is now seen as changing - a change that many inhabitants regret: The reasons for this change remain to be investigated.

Besides informal networks, a **general flexibility** of employment is also still typical for many dockland residents. Already a typical feature at the time of the thriving docks, when labour was mostly casual, even today many people do not just have one profession or one job, but they take whatever they can get, using their skills in different jobs and enterprises at the same time. Another ongoing strategy concerns trade in an informal or illegal sector. Until the mid 1990s goods traded were mostly items lifted from ships or trucks. Today, a more common strategy is dealing with illegal CDs, DVDs, clothes, perfumes, mobile phones etc. which usually come from outside the area.

In the case of **refugees**, the potential for empowerment is also seen identifying and utilizing existing social networks and including community leaders into programme development.

The main focus of ARASI within the framework of the partnership has been the support of 'Integration Processes for Refugees', targeting groups like community development/health centres, schools and vocational Institutions and families, community leaders and entrepreneurs within the refugee communities.

Community leaders requested the need for information updates on policies and legislature in both the Republic and the EU and training in leadership skills to improve the quality of their input to the community. Consequently, a forum is to be established to serve as collective meeting point for national, ethnic and religious leaders, facilitating exchange among the 'single units' currently operating within the same community. Ethnic entrepreneurs likewise, requested such updates and the need for workshops with input from Customs and Excise Officials as their enterprises are constantly in jeopardy due to inadequate paperwork or difficult licensing requirements.

The peer – led approach has greatly enabled access to and participation from the community. ARASI's team have gone through the asylum process themselves. This allows for openness and willingness to cooperation within the community.

As a result of these activities, a series of **case-specific policy recommendations** have been issued so far to be put into practice at a local level, including the establishment and support of local neighbourhood centres based on existing social networks . In order to function properly and to establish trustful relations within the community, these centres have to be developed from within, i.e. it will be crucial to provide proper training and steady sources of funding for community leaders.

A particular problem in Dublin is the variety of existing programmes involving different and sometimes competing goals and objectives. As a result, community leaders and representatives of local groups often work against each other rather than co-operating. To ensure a successful co-operation of heterogeneous groups joint training programmes should be offered and community centers should be established in “neutral” places, as the urban space is demarcated by “symbolic boundaries”, and particular urban neighbourhoods tend to be associated with specific group interests.

6.2. London

In the late 1960s, due to a revolution in shipping technology and cargo handling and containerisation, large numbers of London dock workers were no longer necessary. Of the 30,000 dock workers once employed by the Port of London Authority, only 3,000 are now needed to cope with 50 millions tonnes of goods a year. Consequently, the last of the inner city docks finally closed in 1985. The closure of the docks helped transform the borough of Newham into one of the most **deprived urban areas** in the UK.

As a result, London Docklands residents have experienced some of the largest experiments in urban regeneration in the UK. The area has been the subject of several community development and regeneration projects, the most prominent being the London Docklands Development Corporation, the Isle of Dogs Enterprise Zone, and the Thames Gateway housing and community development programme. Despite these efforts, Newham is still classified as one of the most deprived of the 33 London Boroughs and it is amongst the 88 most disadvantaged areas in Britain.

Regeneration also means that some of the most deprived neighbourhoods populated by some of the poorest residents of London are now on the edge of the ‘new’ Dockland areas affected by gentrification. The changing character of the area has resulted in competition among less skilled and lower income residents for

employment and social resources such as housing, health and education. Since the 1980s, the area has also become home to new wave of **immigrants**. It is estimated that eight per cent of the highly multiethnic population of Newham are refugees from Africa and Asia. **Issues** resulting from deprivation and social exclusion of low income residents also refer to a high rate of crime and racial incidents in the Borough. Recently arrived refugees have been made scapegoats, as they are often blamed for unemployment, poor and insufficient housing, and overstretched services.

However, recent research on the **local potential for self-organisation** indicates that at the informal network level, a sense of community has survived and that there is an appreciation of living in multiethnic neighbourhoods. **Survival strategies** of forced migrants settling in the Docklands area are seen as a result of interaction of social actors struggling, negotiating and sharing their knowledge and information in order to further their own interest and well-being. In the process, which is usually characterised by hardship, some develop 'expert knowledge' of legal or policy issues, but also of economic, social and cultural activities needed for survival.

Semi-invisible links of 'undeclared sociability', such as casual contacts between diverse groups of people in public urban spaces, help people 'rub along together, and develop a positive web of support. The development of these **semi-invisible networks**, are particularly important in urban areas in which local communities are affected by high rates of crime, racial incidents and other forms of insecurity, because they help the development of informal relationships of trust and mutual support. Ethnic shops, restaurants, small businesses, places of worship, advice and social centres, provide employment opportunities, sources of information and networking, as well as a feeling of belonging. Multifunctional small business providing services such as money transfers, phone calls, copy centre, express parcels, and internet access, are becoming important nodes of such communication.

The **practice of 'hosting'** newly arrived and of sharing private social space, i.e. housing, by relatively settled compatriots is one of the internally developed strategies addressing the acute need for shelter and exclusion from public social housing. Temporary shelter provided by hosts, are becoming social spaces within which the 'ways of coping with life' are further developed and shared. Although hosting is temporary, refugees often find it necessary to move from host to host, the practice that often transforms this temporary solution into a longer-term survival strategy.

Newham has a large and diverse NGO sector aware of this process and the importance of sharing and enhancing the development of expert knowledge among individual migrants. As a result, they developed the '**Refugee Mentoring Project**' that provides individual forced migrants with mentors, who are volunteer and often migrants themselves. These mentors provide help to individuals, tailored to his/her needs and act as bridges between formal and informal structures as well as 'cultural experts' of the local area and beyond. With respect to the latter, mentors provide invaluable support to newcomers by helping them to make sense of the 'rules' underpinning social structures and societal relations in the new society, thus, enabling their adjustment. This project represents a good **example of an actor-oriented programme tackling social exclusion**, and a positive way of bridging the gap between formal, institutional, and informal structures involved in the process.

6.3. Ceuta / Algeciras

Ceuta and Algeciras form a dual point of transit for the (mainly illegal) transit of goods and people into Europe. As a result, a large proportion of these cities' residents live on a parallel economy. Both ports are, and have been important centres for smuggling – in the past it was the smuggling of alcohol and cigarettes; nowadays its increasingly illegal drugs and trafficking of people. These activities are being ascribed to the port related areas as well as to the border, in the case of Ceuta.

In the port related areas of Algeciras, the Moroccans are highly visible. The mosque is located here as well as internet-cafes, butchers, restaurants and cheap hostels. They point to an increasing ethnic infrastructure resulting from self-help and self-employment on the part of these **ethnic entrepreneurs**. In other words an appropriation of space seem to take place in this waterfront and port related area, where Moroccan migrant can rely on a dense **transnational network** of people and activities.

Few NGOs such as ACOGE offer assistance to migrants (residents, transit or non documented) in juridical, medical and educational issues, living and workplace conditions. They offer language courses, provide assistance with inner familiar conflicts and offer lectures for schools to help to create awareness of the migrants' situation.

Strategies of livelihood reflect the air of transience of the cities: most of the incoming migrants prefer to migrate towards the bigger Spanish cities or further to other European countries. Male migrants remaining in Algeciras work in the hotel/restaurant business, female migrants as nannies or maids in Spanish households. Male African migrants mostly work as street vendors.

6.4. Thessaloniki

During the nineteen eighties, the cityscape of Thessaloniki began to change through renovation of 'old' buildings and gentrification of some areas that were considered as most visible and 'representative' of the city's image. The targeted areas included the upper part of the city, and 'Ladadika', the port district. The effects of these processes of gentrification have been increased under the pressure of the Olympic Games. Controls have been strengthened and new laws allow the arresting of hawkers and the removal of homeless from the public urban scene.

Research activities carried out in Thessaloniki during Year 1 have been focusing on the effects of gentrification and urban change, and on the strategies and social organisation of refugees working as street vendors. For many migrants / refugees as well as for poor local elderly who formerly found their source of employment in the port, **street vending** remains the only job choice. Also meanwhile, some of them have reached a degree of professionalism that doesn't allow them to change into a the less profitable and more insecure employment situation. These strategies play a significant role in Thessaloniki's parallel economy, as they offer the most immediate opportunity for self-organised, albeit illegalised, work in the city's public space. In choosing the waterfront as a working space, they make strategic use of the attractions of the traditional port scenery for tourists and for the city's population in general.

Issues of **insufficient shelter** and **homelessness** also play a major role in Thessaloniki, leading to specific forms of **self-organisation and support networking**. Refugees and asylum seekers face accommodation difficulties due to their insecure working conditions and the lack of an effective state support system. They have to arrange creative forms of housing and share their private social space. So they normally live together in rented flats, where people with different jobs and different levels of income stability help each other. Usually a person with a more

secure income acts as the main tenant hosting the other subtenants. Usually there is a high degree of movement between a handful of flats, where people arrange to stay together as long as the accommodation doesn't become overcrowded and the lodgers stay friends. This way of living could be described as a **survival strategy** adjusted to their specific life situation, but it also seems to be a copy of home experiences, where usually many people live together as extended families. Living together offers also a variety of advantages like frequent exchange of information and other services. After being helped by others offering a place to sleep in their home, an obligation to reciprocate the service develops. Thus, invisible networks of support and expert knowledge have grown within the communities.

Homeless, refugees and asylum seekers face various **forms of social exclusion**, many of them resulting from their legal situation. **Case-specific policy measures** should take into account that providing a livelihood is not only a matter of survival, but also of integration into the host society. Their willingness and skill to support themselves are usually very high, but the local job market limits them to the informal sector. Most refugees and asylum seekers have worked at least once as street vendors and despite the risks involved, it always remains an option. Legalising this form of entrepreneurship would be a significant step towards integration and reduce conflicts with the host population. Already, the more settled street vendors co-operate with local businesspeople and street vendors owing a license on a day-to-day level. The shopkeepers support and even protect them, as long as they adhere to certain unwritten rules. From the customers' point of view, there is obviously a high demand for the cheap goods and services offered by the street vendors.

The **current work of NGOs** in Thessaloniki has been characterised by the general lack of official and public support. The problems they are facing range from a widespread lack of funding resulting in a dependency on the work of (often untrained) volunteers, a general public disinterest in the situation of "invisible" excluded actors, to open hostility among local and national officials. Another consequence of the invisibility and insecurity of the excluded actors is a **lack of reliable in-depth data** on their situation and social organisation.

Both ARSIS and CRTV therefore see a major focus of their work within this partnership creating and maintaining stable **networks** of communication and support among researchers and local NGOs, in order to exchange information and establish

more interest among local decision-makers. As their target populations are usually unaware of their legal rights and services offered, guides, booklets, and maps have been or are being provided for disseminating relevant information among the homeless as well as among refugees/street vendors.

During Year 1, a report has been produced on the profile of homeless people in Thessaloniki, according to the data that have been collected in ARSIS since 2000. A standard questionnaire has been addressed to local services that deal with homeless people in Thessaloniki. The results point out that health and housing are the main issues that need to be addressed, work and substance abuse problems come second and safety and violence issues occur but less frequently. In respect to services' needed housing facilities is the most common suggestion. In addition, out of these interviews, a guide for the homeless people has been produced, aiming to inform them about the services that they could address to for support. A **social services guide for homeless**, provided by ARSIS, includes all services that could provide support to homeless, such as: health, substances' abuse, housing, food and clothing supplies, bathing, safety, etc. For the included services, the address, the telephone number and the provided services are given. There is also a map, where the services are marked upon, so as to facilitate the homeless to find them. A **leaflet** for the homelessness has also been produced, and has been addressed to the local community in order to explain and give the different dimensions of the phenomenon as well as sensitize and mobilize people to act (what people can do). Through the research that has been conducted about the existing services, a network between the registering services is being developed in a stable working cooperation for the benefit of homeless people. In addition, this network will be connected with the greater network of services that has been formed in Athens (between Greek services and FEANTSA). A further target goal of the network will be to proceed with lobbying in the local and national authorities on the issue of homelessness. Some actions of the network are going to be publicized in the press. The leaflet for the homeless provided by ARSIS also had a positive affect on the public opinion and triggered a series of newspaper articles bringing their problems into the spotlight.

6.5. Hamburg

During Year 1, several **research projects** directly contributing to the partnership were carried out in Hamburg. They were developed **in direct co-operation with the**

practice programmes by the partner organisations Flussschifferkirche and Hinz und Kunzt. Research questions, methods and results have been developed in continuous discussions during the regular meetings of the local network, directly monitoring and contributing to the partners' programme development.

Research into issues related to the port was carried out in direct co-operation with the Inland Sailors' Church Community. In 2003, a total of 11 200 boats were docked in Hamburg by **inland waterway sailors**. As a group, they are immediately affected by structural transformations of the port economy. Due to redevelopment schedules for Hamburg's city port area, their berths are far removed from the city, increasing existing problems of infrastructure and internal communication.

Inland waterway navigation is a travelling trade. For most employees this means badly planned working hours with strongly varying times of absence from home. This is especially difficult for self-employed inland sailors with no steady freighter supplying them with orders on a regular basis. Very often at the beginning of the week they don't know where they will be the following weekend. These work conditions have severe effects on the reality of life of the inland sailors. On the one hand (and above all for the self-employed sailors, who plan their schedules from one job to the next), there are only very **irregular opportunities for social contact** outside the confines of the ship and the areas for turnover of the goods. On the other hand, for these individuals it is very difficult to schedule their time in advance, thus **strongly affecting their family lives and social spheres**. As a result, the social structures near the moorings are of major importance for the lives of the inland sailors.

Through their own experiences, the active inland sailors have come up with specific **problem solving strategies**, but the existing **potential for mutual collaboration** is in practice limited by insufficient facilities for communication even more than by ethnic / language¹ boundaries. Consequently the **urgent issues** voiced by this group refer to problems of access to urban infrastructure and communication. Related to

¹ Relevant ethnic and status groups among inland sailors include German employees on German boats, Polish and Czech employees on German or Polish / Czech boats, Russian employees on Polish boats, German self-employed sailors, and Dutch self-employed sailors (who tend to travel as family units).

this is the general notion that despite (or because of) the overall maritime image of Hamburg as a port city, inland sailors entering from the river Elbe are not considered part of the port and their problems are being overlooked. In consequence, **practice programmes** developed by and with the Flussschifferkirche have been designed to provide better facilities for communication among the different groups of sailors, and to increase their visibility in a general public.

As the floating church will soon be moved to a central place of the inner city port, it will be located adjacent to the urban redevelopment areas currently gentrifying the port. Already a very popular local institution, this prominent position will be used to offer a **forum for lobbying**, communication and increasing the attention of the public and of decision makers. In Year 1, a series of public events dealing with the chances for development of inland navigation has been started for this purpose.

As a direct result of the partnership's lobbying activities, the establishment of a new secure dock in a central position close to the city-port development area (HafenCity) is now being discussed in the city administration.

7. An Exemplary Case: “*Nebenschauplätze*” – the Hamburg Homeless City Walk

Based on queries developed by Hinz und Kunzt and several other institutions dealing with homelessness, an ongoing ethnographic field study among **homeless men in the inner city area** provides further information about current changes in their livelihood practices and social organisation, adding to the results of previous phases of research². The results of this research, which stresses homeless peoples’ expert knowledge of their urban environment, gave important input for the **Homeless City Walk “*Nebenschauplätze*”** (*‘hidden locations’*), a practice programme developed by Hinz und Kunzt. In turn, problems and progresses in the implementation of this programme and questions of its transferability and generalization are currently being monitored by an ongoing field research.

The main goal of all Hinz und Kunzt projects is to help homeless people to help themselves. The idea of enabling individuals without work and housing to earn their own money to satisfy at least their basic needs by offering a street paper to them, had been taken over from London’s “Big Issue” as a model over ten years ago. Hinz und Kunzt has become established as an important voice on Hamburg’s local media market with a mixture of social, cultural and Hamburg related topics.

The overall aim of this partnership is to identify and utilize the **specific potential of socially excluded actors**, i. e. their forms of self-organisation and cultural knowledge, in developing appropriate problem-solving strategies. The situation of the homeless epitomises the whole range of social exclusion experienced by marginalized groups in disadvantaged urban areas. Besides the lack of shelter, homeless people lack access to social, cultural and economic infrastructure and to health services. Generally, they are also insufficiently informed about their rights and suffer from a variety of disabilities due to physical or mental handicaps and to substance abuse³. These problems are enhanced by an overall ignorance of their

² Waltraud Kokot (Hg.) 2004: *Kultur der Obdachlosigkeit in der Hamburger Innenstadt*. Hamburg: lines, Bd.1.

³ For a model of these multiple factors of social exclusion compare the results of the project *Forum for Holistic Integration* (FOHOIN), Community Action Program to Combat Social Exclusion 2002-2006: www.fohoin.info

situation and ways of life among the general population, leading to fear, discrimination (and even violence), and to the stigmatisation of homeless as socially incapable recipients of welfare.

Nonetheless, the survival strategies of homeless people require a high degree of skill and personal flexibility as well as a specific expert knowledge about the urban space. During the first year of this partnership, a practice programme geared towards utilizing this specific cultural knowledge was developed by the partner organisation Hinz und Kunzt. A city walk “behind the scenes” of Hamburg was developed based on the homeless’ expert knowledge about the urban space. Homeless persons have been acting as tourist guides, presenting the city from the perspective of the poor. So far, this walk has been extremely successful among a wide range of audiences from school classes to groups of business people. As other activities of this partner organisation, this project has significantly contributed to create a more **positive people image of homeless**, utilizing their knowledge and capabilities rather than stressing their obvious deficiencies.

The city walk “*Nebenschauplätze*” has the following goals:

- Strengthening self-confidence and developing skills and abilities of persons who are no longer involved in normal work processes.
- Offering a small scale working possibility for homeless persons who could together form a self-organized team.
- Bringing homelessness and social exclusion into the minds of a broader public as well as to users of public space as part of Hinz und Kunzt general lobby activities.

Currently two persons are regularly offering the walk (several other candidates who were also interested could not be taken because of unsuitable behaviour in public). As it takes a lot of courage reveal one’s social status as homeless, the guides have been selected and trained from among the vendors of the Hinz und Kunzt magazine. The readiness of Hinz und Kunzt vendors to get involved and to represent the project in public shows a high potential for self-help and empowerment, as soon as certain conditions are met. Due to the specific problems of this group (alcoholism, drug abuse, long absence from regular work schedules), individual training and continuous

monitoring by members of support groups are a necessary condition for the transfer of this programme to other actors or locations.

The city walk “*Nebenschauplätze*” **exemplifies the major principles** of this partnership in the following points.

- In a particularly vulnerable and “invisible” group affected by a wide range of social exclusion, the focus has been set on skills, self-help and expert knowledge.
- These actors’ specific potential has been identified and documented by a close co-operation of practitioners and researchers.
- A practice programme has been developed in this partnership explicitly focusing on the actors’ skills and knowledge and bringing their situation to the attention of a general public.
- The implementation of this programme has been monitored continuously by researchers from the partnership.
- So far, the project has been very successful in improving the public opinion on homeless people’s rights in Hamburg.

8. Joint Activities / Meetings

During Year I, **two international meetings** were held in Hamburg (January 2004) and in London (July 2004).

The purpose of the **first meeting** was to exchange ideas and information on the programme and to establish the new network, which had been extended from the existing co-operation in phase I. NGOs and researchers met as equal partners to establish an interdisciplinary effort. All partners gave first overview reports on the living conditions of excluded groups and actors, a basis for developing action oriented programmes.

In this meeting, a series of guidelines was developed by both researchers and NGOs; defining questions and topics for further ethnographic research. As the expert knowledge of the NGOs was crucial in preparing the first research phase, a series of questions and topics could be developed and served as guidelines for the research projects.

The Hamburg city walk guided by homeless served as a key example for good practice developed on the basis of prior research. During the ensuing discussions about common experiences, problems, and key issues, the concept of social networks proved to be particularly useful for both researchers and NGOs for their future work. Social networks were identified by all partners as an important means of survival among socially excluded populations. Thus, establishing and strengthening social networks were identified as an important element in all measures to be taken.

The first meeting lead to an exchange of expert knowledge of partners dealing with similar problems (e.g. homeless or refugees) but in different local and national contexts. The project website was introduced as a means of information exchange. Finally, all partners visited the International Seamen's Mission "*Duckdalben*" located in the Hamburg Port as a further example of good practice in identifying and providing for the basic needs of an itinerant clientele.

During the **second meeting**, a strong emphasis was laid on the importance of networking on a the local level and the formation of local task groups. A strong input in this direction was given by existing activities and experiences of UEL hosting various NGOs concerned with refugee issues. Interim reports of researchers and NGOs provided overviews over all projects and new ideas for project development.

As a means of dissemination of research results and programme experience, the partners developed suggestions for *Learning Modules* addressed at other practitioners and a wider audience. A guided tour around the London Docklands provided new insights in the London local context of waterfront renewal and its impact on local actors.

Besides these meetings, an important means of co-operation was set up by establishing **local networks of communication**. Hosted by research institutions, the partners working in one city have been exchanging their results and experiences on an informal basis. So far these local networks have been mainly limited to the official partners, but in the future, they will serve as an important means for dissemination among a local public.

Based on the example of ongoing practice in London, local networks of researchers and NGO representatives were also set up in Hamburg, Thessaloniki and Dublin. They have been meeting informally to exchange information and discuss problems and progress. The Hamburg meetings take place : on a regular basis every five to six weeks.

In August / September 2004, researchers from Dublin and Hamburg met with ARASI to jointly develop a questionnaire on the problems, needs and wishes of refugees and asylum seekers, carried out by ARASI in order to improve their services.

In September / October 2004, researchers from Hamburg met with researchers and ARSIS in Thessaloniki to exchange information and project design (this meeting, as the one in Dublin, was funded by sources outside the project partnership). A short field study (six weeks) was carried jointly by researchers and members of ARSIS about the social organisation and cultural knowledge of homeless people in Thessaloniki.

9. Dissemination and Outputs of Year 1

Local-level dissemination activities have been described in the overview over partners' activities in Year 1. Practice programmes like the city walks have been covered in the local press.



Illustration 2: Postcard disseminating the idea of the city walk "Nebenschauplätze"

Due to the focus on research and programme development, most of the tangible output is to be expected in Year 2 (see revised work schedule). Several papers and lectures given in Year 1 are still in publication.

The partnership's **website**: www.europeanportcities.de presents an overview of aims and current activities. In the future, the website will be extended to include a forum to facilitate communication between the partners and related organisations.

So far, the general aims of the partnership were presented in a **leaflet** (attached) available in three languages (English, Spanish, German – a Greek version is in preparation), which has been distributed to all partners and disseminated among interested institutions, at lectures and conferences, at public events and if possible to members of the affected groups.

The aims and structure of the partnership is also summarized on a **poster** (see below) which has been presented at an international conference on “Port Cities in Asia and Europe” organised by the University of Hamburg in 2004. This poster will also be presented at several other occasions, such as the “Hamburger Wissenschaftssommer” (Sylt 2006).



EUROPEAN PORT CITIES



Institut für Ethnologie der Universität Hamburg

Head of project: Prof. Dr. Waltraud Kokot

The Project:

Comparative ethnographic research and development of practice-oriented programmes in disadvantaged urban areas

- Close co-operation of research institutes and non-government organisations
- Focus on urban subsistence - local actors' cultural knowledge and strategies of survival in the informal economic sector

Migrants and refugees, former port workers, homeless, street vendors and other groups living in and of the public urban space

Key Topics:

Global economic transformations lead to changing relations of port and city.

- Loss of port-related work opportunities, devaluation and social exclusion of groups and actors formerly related to the ports.
- At the same time, refugees and new immigrants compete for remaining opportunities in unskilled labour and in the informal economic sector

Contesting urban space:

- Gentrification of urban waterfronts and of port-related residential areas leads to further devaluation and social exclusion of their former inhabitants

Port Cities as Research Sites for Urban Anthropology

Urban cultures have become a major research site for social/cultural anthropology

- Ethnographic field studies focus on cultural knowledge and everyday activities
- Actor-oriented research perspectives shed light on the local effects of global transformation processes
- Cross-cultural comparisons serve as a basis for theory formation and policy recommendations

Research Sites:

Hamburg, London, Dublin, Thessaloniki, Ceuta and Algeciras

London:

Strategies of Survival in the Dockland Area

Fieldwork on: migrants, refugees, asylum seekers

NGO: RAMP



Hamburg:

Strategies of survival in the streets and on the river

Fieldwork on: homeless people, sailors, gentrification

NGO: Hinz und Kunzt, Fluss-Schiffer-Kirche



Dublin:

From „Dirty Old Town“ to „World Class City“

Fieldwork on: dockland communities, migrants, asylum seekers

NGO: ARASI



Algeciras:

Port between two continents, nexus between two seas

Fieldwork on: border, migrants, ethnic entrepreneurs, spatial segregation

NGO: Andalusia Acoge



Ceuta:

Port and enclave city at the border of Europe

Fieldwork on: refugees, migration, enclavement and mobility

NGO: Médecins sans frontières



Thessaloniki:

Contested urban space in the „Capital of the Balkans“

Fieldwork on: street vendors, homeless people, refugees, gentrification

NGO: ARSIS, CRTV



International Conference

„Social exclusion, urban-subsistence and actor-oriented programmes in disadvantaged areas in European Port Cities“

Hamburg, 11 - 13th of November 2005, University of Hamburg, Institute for social and cultural anthropology



Illustration 3: Poster: European Port Cities – Disadvantaged Urban Areas in Transition

Two **guided tours** have been offered as output of this partnership. The Hamburg city walk guided by homeless people has been described elsewhere. In 2003 and 2004, a Trinity College-based project researcher presented a guided walk of the Dublin Docklands and Parts of the Pembroke Estate during the European Heritage Week. In the Flussschifferkirche, a series of public events has been staged to introduce a public debate on their situation and problems.




Lobby in der Flussschifferkirche
Verknüpfungspunkte zwischen Stadt und Fluss

Im Rahmen der Initiative „Lobby in der Flussschifferkirche“ nimmt die auf dem einzigartigen Kirchenschiff beheimatete Gemeinde die Verbesserung von Lebensbedingungen der Binnenschiffer, die den Hamburger Hafen anlaufen oder in ihm arbeiten, in den Blick. Die Besatzungen der täglich durchschnittlich mehr als 30 Binnenschiffe sind zurecht enttäuscht von einer Standortpolitik, die Milliarden in die Seeschifffahrt investiert, der Schiffsanbindung des Hinterlandes – also den Binnenschiffern – aber erstaunlich wenig Beachtung schenkt.

Veranstaltungskalender:

So, 19.9.04	Ein Leben auf dem Binnenschiff <i>Frau Flöhring verabschiedet sich nach dem Gottesdienst mit einem Interview</i>
Di, 12.10.04	Das Projekt: Lobby in der Flussschifferkirche <i>Diskussion und Ideensammlung gemeinsam mit Reimer Dohrn</i>
Di, 9.11.04	Sind Binnenschiffe wirklich das ökologischste Verkehrsmittel? <i>Christian Maß von der GAL stellt sich den Fragen der Gemeinde</i>
So, 12.12.04	Ein Leben auf dem Binnenschiff <i>Nach dem Gottesdienst: Kurzfilm von Marilyn Stroux über die Nikolaustour</i>
Di, 14.12.04	Adventsgemeindeabend mit Film vom Abschied der Frau Flöhring <i>Vorstellung Filmprojekt Marilyn Stroux</i>
Di, 11.1.05	Bei Vadder an Bord <i>Heinz-Christian Wilkens liest aus seinem Buch und zeigt Fotos</i>
Di, 08.03.05	Stand und Perspektiven der Binnenschifffahrt in Deutschland <i>Diskussion mit Prof. Dr. Dankwart Danckwerts, Duisburg / Hamburg</i>
Di, 12.04.05	Arbeits- und Lebenssituation von Seeleuten auf Seeschiffen und Angebote für sie <i>Seemannsdiakon Jan Oltmanns, Int. Seemannsclub Duckdalben, Hamburg</i>
Fr, 06.05.05	Binnenschiffer wohin? In die Hafencity! <i>Podiumsdiskussion mit musikalischer Begleitung</i>
Di, 14.06.05	letzter Gemeindeabend in der Billwerder Bucht: In Hamburg sagt man tschüß!
Di, 13.09.05	Das ökumenische Projekt Brücke als Treffpunkt für Binnenschiffer? <i>W. Vogelmann, NEK, Pater Siwanski, St. Erich, reformierte Hauptpastorin</i>

Illustration 4: Leaflet presenting public events

Unfortunately, not all **publications, papers, talks and presentations** could be included in this report, as some partners did not answer our call for a list and copies. A complete list of publications and proof copies will be submitted with the final report (Year 2).

Kokot, Waltraud (ed.) 2004: Kultur der Obdachlosigkeit in der Hamburger Innenstadt, lines 01, Hamburg, 2004

Kokot, Waltraud 2004: European Port Cities: a collaborative project (Paper read at International Conference: *Port Cities in Asia and Europe*, organised by the Institute for African and Asian Studies, University of Hamburg (publication in preparation))

Kokot, Waltraud 2004: Kultur der Obdachlosigkeit in der Hamburger Innenstadt. Paper presented at the exhibition „Architektur der Obdachlosigkeit“, Museum der Arbeit, Hamburg.

Wonneberger, Astrid: World-class city or dirty old town“ – Images of Dublin in the Context of Dockland Regeneration (Seventh International Conference on Urban History, Athens, October 27-30, 2004)

Wonneberger, Astrid (in print): Vom Schmuttelimage zur Weltstadt: Bilder der Stadt Dublin im Kontext der Hafenrandenerneuerung, in: IMS 1,2005

Wonneberger, Astrid /James P. Hogan, Gentrification, Urban Planning and Community Power (Paper presented at Hamburg University, January 2005 / NUI Maynooth/Ireland, February 2005)

10. Visibilities and Contributions to Policy Development

So far, the **visibility and impact of this partnership** have been clearly limited to a **local level**. Due to the focus on research activities and programme development, dissemination of project results towards an academic audience has been quite successful. As the examples from practice programmes show, local initiatives and lobbying has also clearly contributed to **increase the visibility and public acceptance** of excluded actors and their problems. In this important area the partnership has also been successful. In Year 2, activities will be stepped up to build upon the current results.

A major **weakness** of this partnership so far concerns the issues of policy recommendations and policy impact on a general level. National and European policy have not been impacted at all yet. The relation of this partnership to NAP implementation has not been sufficient. These problems have been identified and, following consultations with Mr. Wolf, a revised course of action has been agreed upon (details attached).

So far, the following **general recommendations and preliminary conclusions** were derived from the results of Year 1:

- In order to meet the specific needs of particularly vulnerable groups, measures are to include community leaders and to be based on existing social networks.
- Existing community structures should be better supported and funded,
- In the case of refugees and migrants, flexible policies of settlement should be developed sensitive to the variety of populations and their needs, skills and social capital.
- Case-sensitive measures should include supporting and strengthening specific skills, building and fostering existing networks of communication and information, and generally addressing beneficiaries as experts for their social situation.

Time and trust as a precondition for successful programmes and transfer of good practice:

Due to the particularly insecure conditions of livelihoods (homeless, street vendors, port-related day labourers) and of legal situations (refugees, informal work force), the problem of *trust* is a major issue any programmes directed at the populations involved. Partners reported on the failure of attempts to implement practice programmes on a short-term basis. Often, the implementation of social programmes is seriously hampered by NGO workers being identified with administration and / or authorities. In order to ensure the necessary trustful relations, the following preconditions have to be met:

- In-depth documentation and analysis of existing (culture-specific) forms of communication and social relations.
- The identification and utilization of existing social networks
- Addressing (and training) key individuals in this group to implement and disseminate the programmes.
- Analysis of specific forms of livelihood and strategies of dealing with insecure conditions
- Identification and empowerment of beneficiaries' specific expert knowledge in developing appropriate solutions.

Securing continuity and sustainability in NGO programmes

Closely related to the issue of establishing long-term trustful relationships is the necessity of secure and continuous funding of NGO work for the development and implementation of sustainable programmes. Particularly for the (mostly small) NGOs representing the beneficiaries themselves, this issue of *securing continuity* is of vital importance. This has proved to be particularly urgent in relation to the *transfer of good practice*, because all new elements of programmes must be carefully adapted to the very specific structures and needs of the beneficiaries involved, but this, as outlined above, takes time and continuous funding.

Establishing facilities for internal communication and enhancing visibility

- The need for improving *internal communication* has been particularly stressed by all groups of excluded actors addressed in this project. Due to their insecure living conditions, most actors are not, or insufficiently, informed about their rights and opportunities or about the purposes of programmes aiming at improving their situations. This results in a low rate of participation and a as outlined above, in a general level of distrust. To efficiently address these problems, alternative facilities for communication must be developed based on existing social networks and forms of information exchange. This presupposes in-depth knowledge as well as the active participation of local experts.
- Closely related to the issue of internal communication is the lack of visibility of excluded actors' situations and problems to a general public. Of the programmes included in this project, those focusing on *enhancing the public visibility of the actors*, focusing on their strengths and specific skills, have proved to be particularly successful. Steps towards the transfer and dissemination of these examples of good practice are being developed in the current phase of the project.

11. Lessons Learnt from Year 1 – Perspectives for Year 2

During year 1, the overall goals of the project could only partially be fulfilled. Due to the strong focus on individual research and practice programmes, the connection of the project to general policy issues and the implementation of NAPs was not sufficiently clear. The dynamic structure of this partnership and the partners' specific contributions have not been made sufficiently visible.

For year 2, the focus of the partnership has been altered and a **changed course of action** was designed following consultations with the Commission's representative Mr. Wolf in November 2004. These changes have been agreed upon by all partners and are currently being implemented.

So far, the enhanced focus on policy recommendations has provided a *positive impact* to the structure of partners' ongoing work and of the exchange between partners during the February meeting. In preparation of the meeting, a questionnaire was distributed to all partners including an evaluation of the major problems encountered in their work, suggested solutions and the main sources of potential for empowerment/social inclusion they have identified in their target groups. The results from this questionnaire were summarized at the beginning of the meeting and provided a basis for the following discussions (further details on the results will be included in the next report to the European Commission).

As all participants agreed, these questions also have served as guidelines for the internal evaluation of their ongoing work. Accordingly, questionnaires will now be issued to all partners on a regular basis in order to ensure the comparability of their work, to provide a common ground for the following meetings and give a common structure to the outputs.

At the February 2005 meeting, a representative of the RISP (Duisburg) was present to monitor the discussion and to prepare future counselling to participants in developing policy recommendations. From this counselling (as well as from the information issued at the project promoters' meeting in Bruxelles on March 1 2005), we expect to overcome any **potential problems** that may arise from partners' lack of experience with the Commission's expectations towards output and policy recommendations.

Due to the Dutch partner leaving the project (for reasons not related to the new course of action), there will be no more follow-up data on the Spanish cases (Algeciras and Ceuta). The data collected so far will serve as a basis for general conclusions, but since no local NGOs have been involved, there will no specific reports and recommendations referring to these cases and to the Spanish NAP.

As a consequence of the preliminary results and suggestions outlined above, **local task groups** based on already existing networks have been set up in the cities participating in the project. Hosted by the research institutions and partner NGOs, they include other local NGOs not officially included in the project as well as representatives of the local administration and representatives of beneficiaries.

So far, these groups have mainly served as informal networks for the exchange of experiences and information and (as the example of the Flussschifferkirche in Hamburg shows) have also been serving as important means for enhancing the visibility of the actors. In the future, the work of these networks will be intensified and formalised to the degree of developing *transferable modules of good practice*, which will be offered to local institutions and to a wider audience in the form of seminars (for details of schedule, see revised work programme).

Hamburg, March 2005

Waltraud Kokot