European Port Cities. Disadvantaged Urban Areas in Transition.
Phase II – Year 2 – Project Meeting Feb. 24-25 2005, Hamburg

Questionnaire 1: Short Summary of Results and Recommendations

This is a very short summary of the results and recommendations derived from the questionnaires provided by the partners in preparation of this meeting. From this very short summary, a general tendency is clearly visible despite all variability of the cases: the main focus of all projects and therefore the major thrust of policy recommendations lies in the strengthening and utilization of local expert knowledge, local social networks and self-organization. Based on these common results, our next task twill be to issue specific and transferable recommendations for action.

1. **Groups / populations particularly affected by social exclusion**

Former dockworkers and their families, particularly elderly and youth/children, inland sailors and other people living in and of the port, homeless people, forced migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

2. **Main problems addressed by NGO work / research**

Poor housing, poor infrastructure, drugs, alcoholism, petty crime, homelessness, approaching local populations or migrants and refugees as experts.

3. **Particular potential for empowerment / social inclusion**

Community structure, self-organisation, neighbourhood networks, utilizing expert knowledge of homeless, migrants and refugees, focusing on concepts and structures of neighbourhood.

4. **Suggested policy measures**

Supporting and strengthening existing networks, training and leisure activities, re-conceptualising migrants and refugees as experts, developing and strengthening social networks and specific skills, building and fostering networks of communication and information.

5. **Case- specific conclusions**

All measures are to include community leaders and be based on existing social networks, existing community structures and centers should be better supported and funded, flexible policies of settlement sensitive to the variety of populations and their needs, skills and social capital.

6. **What could be transferred to other cases**
Community centers, strengthening of local structures and networks, focusing on a variety of needs and social networks. The applicability / transferability of most programmes depends on steady funding.