



URBACT II and Regions for Economic Change

Aldo TORRE

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR REGIONAL POLICY

Directorate for Policy Development

“Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion” Unit



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What is 'Regions for Economic Change' (RfEC)?

- A new initiative, no new funding
- 'Partnership in action' and strong focus on the 'capitalisation' element
- Implementation through two major networking programmes: interregional (INTERREG IVC) and urban development (URBACT II) cooperation

Core objectives:

- **Addressing common issues together** and
- **Creating a stronger link between exchange of good practices and mainstream funding programmes**

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Four key elements:

- **Thematic approach (30 themes)**
- **Communication**
- **Two-way bridge with mainstream Operational Programmes**
- **'Fast track' option (Commission support)**



What is 'Regions for Economic Change' (RfEC)?

Example: Communication (and dissemination...)

Yearly conferences



Publications



RegioStars Awards



Website





What is a 'Fast Track Network' (FTN)?

- As any other network, based on exchange: experience and 'good practice'
- Capitalisation of knowledge already available: tools, methods, approaches, management skills, thematic knowledge...
- Focus on action: translation of 'good practices' into mainstream policies and programmes (esp. EU-funded ones)
- Active involvement of the Managing Authorities (MAs) of the relevant Operational Programme(s)
- Concrete deliverables (Local Action Plans - LAPs), for practical implementation, with an eye to sustainability beyond the life of the network
- Support of the Commission services: DG Regional Policy and other DGs.



How is the URBACT II programme linked to RfEC?

URBACT II acts as a 'vehicle' for the initiative:

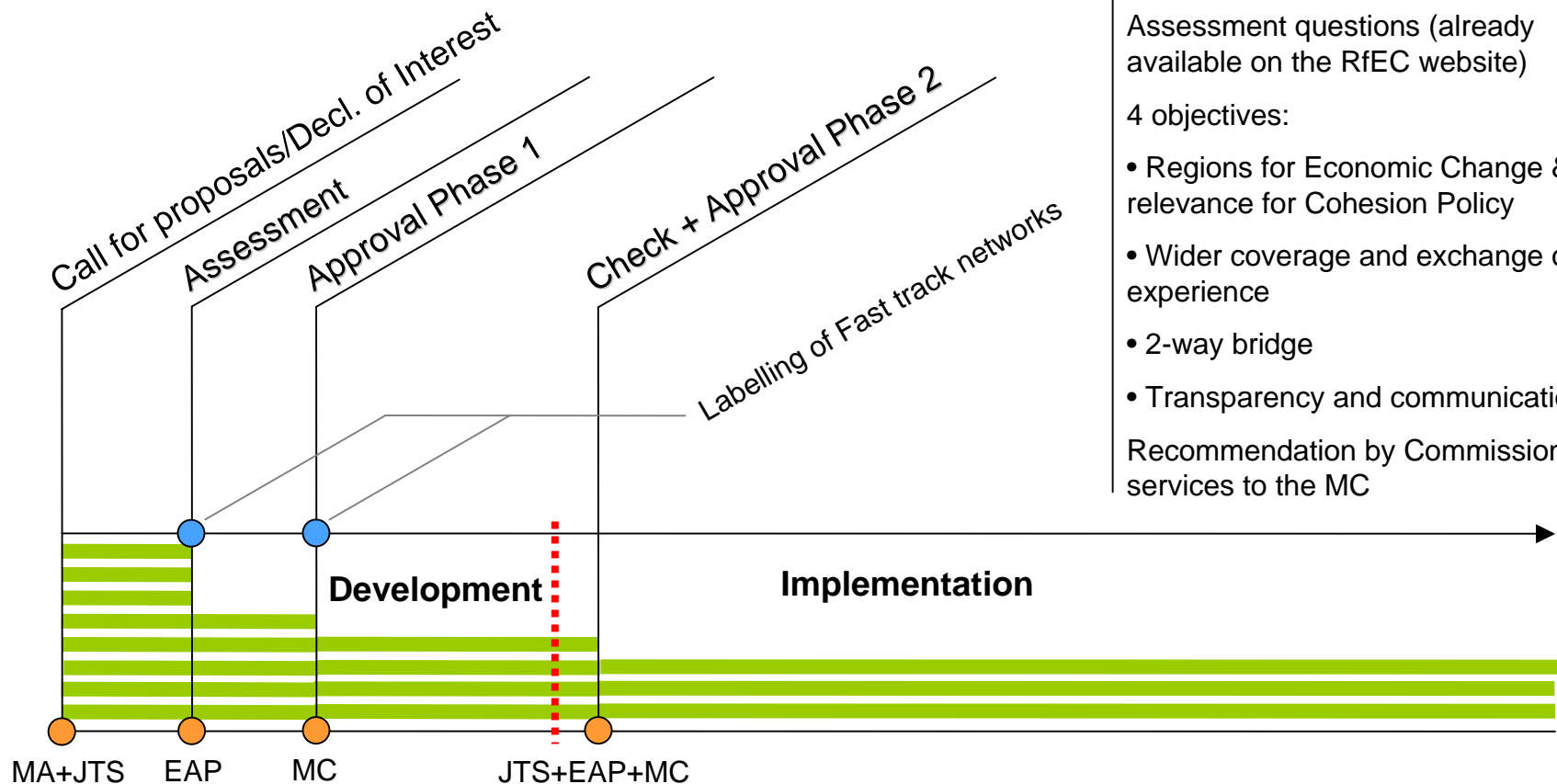
- Funding of the networking activities for partners
- Source of projects
- Close(r) coordination between URBACT II JTS and Commission

Some of the RfEC features are shared with the 'mainstream' programme:

- Promotion of closer cooperation of partners with Managing Authorities
- Promotion of concrete implementation of results
- Thematic element
- Capitalisation element
- Communication element



Implementation: labelling process



Parallel process

Assessment questions (already available on the RfEC website)

4 objectives:

- Regions for Economic Change & relevance for Cohesion Policy
- Wider coverage and exchange of experience
- 2-way bridge
- Transparency and communication

Recommendation by Commission services to the MC

JTS: Joint Technical Secretariat – MA: Managing Authority – EAP: External Assessment Panel – MC: Monitoring Committee



Overview of the URBACT II FTNs

URBACT II RfEC Theme	Thematic Networks with Fast Track Label
1. Healthy communities	Building Healthy Communities
2. Integrated policies on urban transport	-
3. Sustainable & energy efficient housing stock	-
4. Marginalised youth	-
5. Managing migration	Open Cities MILE *
6. Sustainable urban development	UNIC HerO RegGov URBAMECO *
7. Brownfields & waste disposal sites	-

* Pilot Fast Track Network



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InfoRegio

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/

Regions for Economic Change

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/index_en.cfm

RegioStars Awards

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/regiostars_en.cfm?nmenu=4

URBACT II

<http://urbact.eu>

Aldo TORRE

Directorate-General for Regional Policy
Rue de la Loi 200 (CSM1 3/161)
B - 1049 Brussels
Tel. +32 22 98 74 21

Email: aldo.torre@ec.europa.eu



Open Days 2008



Cooperation on European urban development
The first year of the URBACT II programme

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