



# Infoletter

# 5 – May 2006

## **Welcome to the fifth issue of the POSEIDON infoletter!**

The six months that have passed since our last newsletter have been busy for POSEIDON; this newsletter intends to give a snapshot on past achievements and ongoing activities.

Riots in Paris - it seemed to stay quiet on the streets of the POSEIDON partner areas, but could the situation in the suburbs of Paris be compared to their situation? And is there a latent risk that something similar could happen in the POSEIDON neighbourhoods?

### **Interregional learning**

In the POSEIDON context, it can be understood increasingly as a way of **intercultural learning and understanding about differing approaches towards urban revitalisation and its local tradition**. What can be learned, among other things, is the great variety of individual approaches and the understanding of different concepts and methods within neighbourhood management, covering a wide range of topics from cultural to socially integrative projects. The exchange and learning process is being supported by ongoing bilateral staff exchange activities between all partner areas, exchanging their views on implementation of the local pilots.

### **Implementing the pilots in all partner areas**

Since summer 2005, preparation of the individual pilot projects has led to the concrete implementation of various pilot activities. Their design was influenced by and developed on the basis of interregional exchange and lessons learned from a European perspective of neighbourhood management. Though neighbourhood management is considered to be a strategic tool, and is a term frequently used, its definition in regional practice is not a general one; it clearly is a locally defined tool that involves local solutions.

The special focus of this newsletter issue is on POSEIDON pilot activities, **telling the pilots' stories**, about their specific objectives and **what they actually do**, an interregional assessment board is currently evaluating the individual steps taken in order to achieve their goals.

Susanne Peutl  
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Mai 2006

## **CONTENTS**

- 1. SPOTLIGHTS ON THE BEST OF PILOTS ACTIVITIES**
- 2. RIOTS IN PARIS – FROM THE POSEIDON PARTNERS' DISCUSSION FORUM**
- 3. FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES**

## 1. SPOTLIGHTS ON THE BEST OF PILOTS CURRENT ACTIVITIES

### ❖ Amsterdam

*Activities for the Community School by the concept of "Wijkweb 't Koggeschip" in Geuzenveld - Slotermeer*

The "Wijkweb" in general represents a new strategic concept of neighbourhood management and a social plan that organises situational, flexible cooperation between municipal and public organisations and the residents involved. Within the newly built Community School t' Koggeship, among others, the activities focused on "developing talents", continuously developing an active residents' platform and the systematic revelation of wishes on the programme's design of leisure time activities that are supposed to be developed and driven according to residents' requirements.

The so-called wijkweb markets in particular turned out as a highly dynamic method of organising meetings among organisations and residents: workshops and interactive performances encouraged the presentation of live music, dance, artwork, film, theatre and exotic cooking such as the Surinamese cuisine. Anja Boon, the A'dam POSEIDON local project manager, explains that numerous efforts were undertaken to make residents feel at home and to "pamper" them in order to ensure a creative atmosphere. At one of the market events, a short film documenting the special working style at the wijkmarkt was presented as a special highlight; it was also broadcast on A'dam's urban TV channel.

Link to background information on A'dam's pilot "School t'Koggeship":  
<http://www.poseidon-partnership.net/193269.0/>

### ❖ Vienna

*A variety of activities bringing back life to a neglected shopping street, and proactive conflict management measures supporting residents of all ages in a Viennese housing estate.*

#### **Pilot Wolke 7**

Between 1 and 10 September 2005, the target area of activities in connection with the Vienna Wolke 7 pilot project staged a short film festival, showing experimental films and documentaries, among others. At the end of the festival, the best film was awarded a prize. Practically at the same time, a so-called backyard festival took place. A huge variety of activities was organised, for instance a mystery rally, and stands offering delicatessen from local stores. The aim of these measures was to present the hidden qualities of this densely built-up neighbourhood, also done by the "street of stories" on the local project's website that reflects the history of the area. Over the long term, the business people in this neighbourhood are to be encouraged to open new stores, intensify their networking, and launch initiatives for sustainable improvement of the area themselves.

Link to background information on Vienna's pilot "Wolke 7"  
<http://www.poseidon-partnership.net/166747.0/>

## **Pilot Anker 10**

Community workers and residents installed networks in the housing estate, mainly focusing on different kinds of self-organised activities that led to increased identification. Among other things, a network of coordinators was set up for the organised use of "semi-public indoor leisure time spaces - hobby rooms"; other activities have been organised to carry out practical interventions, aiming at attractive indoor and outdoor space of the housing area. A children and youth platform has identified needs, wishes, conflicts of young people of all ages, and is involved in a future green area participation project. Another special activity is a short film about the individual resident's perception and opinion of the housing estate area that is presented and discussed at ongoing community events.

Link to background information on Vienna's pilot "Anker 10"  
<http://www.poseidon-partnership.net/166803.0/>

## **❖ Genova**

*Concrete actions and testing new neighbourhood management methods for the revitalisation of the Scrivia Valley and its waterfront.*

The strategic Scrivia Valley Masterplan aims at an integrated approach for the region's physical and social revitalisation. The establishment of a Joint Project Office in the Valley can be considered a highly important step to share responsibilities among the institutions of the municipalities and Mountain Community, and is working together with several other institutions, in order to build up strong co operations and meet the challenges and interventions arising from implementation.

Three new campaigns already emerged from the process of involvement for participation activities aimed at the improvement of a leisure area in small communities of Casella; another one is a little square in Isola del Cantone, and a shopping street in Canale Bolzano. Moreover the interregional POSEIDON exchange has supported new initiatives to be defined in the future, e.g. one about school exchange activities with partners from North Kent and London, another cultural exchange with two choirs, and an application for town twinning between the Scrivia Valley and a valley in Lower Austria, which is located in Vienna's surrounding area.

Link to background information on the Provincia di Genova's pilot "Valle Scrivia"  
<http://www.poseidon-partnership.net/182660.0/>

### ❖ **London–Haringey**

*Youth forum seeking to become an overarching initiative, encouraging young people's groups to become community leaders of tomorrow.*

The Youth Forum in the NDC area adopted a constitution and was recognised by the Board of the New Deal for Communities. Forum members are approximately 30 young people aged between 14 and 20 and roughly split 50/50 male and female, coming from impoverished backgrounds. They are working closely with young peoples' groups, also including a Somali, Turkish and Kurdish forum.

The Forum seeks to be an overarching organisation for young people in the NDC to encourage them to join together and to achieve, with the idea that young people will become community leaders of tomorrow and will set good examples to other young people by their increased self esteem and by gaining new knowledge, insight and skills.

One of the main youth forum activities is a young peoples' film initiative, the so-called video diary. Young people have learnt how to use video and film equipment and how to make their own short films. Some of the films were shown at the "Let's Be Positive" event that showcased young talents at an evening of music, poetry and film. They continued their work by recording the staff exchange between London Haringey and Stockholm from a young person's point of view.

Link to background information on the London Haringey's pilots:

<http://www.poseidon-partnership.net/211018.0/>

<http://www.poseidon-partnership.net/193277.0/>

### ❖ **Stockholm**

*Youth activities in Rinkeby and Skärholmen developing plans on how to involve youngsters in district development and activities defining tools to improve services at the "Jobbcentrum".*

The Rinkeby Youth Council is meeting on a regular basis and is making plans on how to encourage youngsters to get involved in the development of the local neighbourhood. The forum was also successful in having launched its own website and in an increasing number of networking activities with the city District Council, individual local councillors and schools and organisations in the area exploring possible areas and topics of cooperation. A special highlight was the youth staff exchange with London Haringey in order to exchange experiences and methods how to reach out to other young people. Empowerment activities for young people in Skärholmen have been kicked off. An inventory of key issues in order to evaluate jobcentre activities has been made by a series of interviews of former jobseekers.

Link to background information on Stockholm's pilots

<http://www.poseidon-partnership.net/193275.0/>

<http://www.poseidon-partnership.net/193573.0/>

<http://www.poseidon-partnership.net/193273.0/>

#### ❖ North Kent

*Community of Twydall carries out "simple" but effective and concrete projects for revitalisation*

The community has been reviewing the local action plan feeding in from best practice and information from previous POSEIDON exchanges. As the really big POSEIDON link, Don MacLaren, the community development worker, mentions the concert to be held in Rochester cathedral on June 16, 2006 – the Valle Scrivia Men's Choir will sing together with the Rainham Ladies Choir and two other local choirs.

Other main ongoing activities are the establishment of a garden club to get local gardeners to learn more about gardening, which helps to raise the standard and including people of all ages and gardening ability. Another gardening activity has involved scouts and has made available money from other organisations for this work. Social isolation in the community is combated through the Twydall Luncheon Club where children under seven are introduced to conversation with elder residents; the local POSEIDON newsletter is drawing increasing attention to and participation in ongoing events. As a special asset, it is highlighted that all these projects rely on people getting involved, many of them being involved for the very first time in changing things.

Link to background information on North Kent's pilot "Twydall action plan"  
<http://www.poseidon-partnership.net/193271.0/>

## **2. RIOTS IN PARIS – OPINIONS FROM THE POSEIDON PARTNERS' DISCUSSION FORUM**

Recent riots in Paris have brought fresh topicality to the debate within the POSEIDON partnership of how to deal best with deprived areas in their own region.

The English partners seem to be quite confident about the stability of a rather peaceful coexistence of their residents. Especially White Hart Lane in London-Haringey as a highly diverse area with a high percentage of transient migrants had already a few riots in the past, but the local neighbourhood managers are confident that thanks to their dedicated and ongoing community work, "Paris" could not happen there.

In Amsterdam, Ronald van der Steen, security officer sees a rather small risk of an eruption in the city's neighbourhoods in the suburbs, since there is an ongoing highly developed exchange between the central city and the surrounding districts. Moreover, so-called neighbourhood police offices are keeping good relations with youth workers and local street corner workers, and the city offers a great variety of opportunities of involvement for young people.

Vienna seems to be far away from violence and riots. The proven policy instrument of so-called "gentle urban renewal" increasingly invests in proactive conflict management measures in their housing estates. Moreover, the mix of residents from the middle class and from a lower income background seems to have proven to prevent a concentration of problems and of ghetto formation in the city's districts. Intercultural neighbourhood management will become increasingly relevant with a growing number of residents with a emigrational background.

Some of the Stockholm outer city districts such as Rinkeby have a high concentration of migrants and adolescents. In the opinion of the local POSEIDON project manager of Stockholm, Pia Sundqvist, outbursts of violence here are being successfully avoided by a wide range of cultural, sports and leisure time activities for young residents. Moreover, municipal efforts also address citizens of all ages in order to be able to enter the labour market for employment.

Big cities in Italy like Genova actually have some deprived suburbs with few social and neighbourhood management facilities. According to Andrea Pasetti, POSEIDON local project manager in Genova, the low level of conflict raised by young people is a result of the strong traditional structures in which the role of the "family" is still very important, and seems to be the best social cohesion to prevent an outburst of conflict.

### **3. CURRENT AND FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES**

#### **Assessment visits and evaluation panels in all the partner areas**

Between March and June 2006, all the partner areas pilots undergo review by an interregional assessment board travelling to the target areas and action fields of the pilots. "Assessment checklists" have been developed that will ensure that all projects will be looked at from different perspectives. The indicators framework has been defined as follows: Assess the strategic level, the project management and the residents level, all of the indicators referring to policy, to consultation and involvement, and towards sustainable project completion? Moreover, every project needs to develop and provide its individual success criteria.

POSEIDON schedule of interregional activities:  
<http://www.poseidon-partnership.net/220059.0/>

#### **Future events**

The final project working group meeting in Stockholm in mid-June 2006 will summarise the results of the past cooperation work so far and will prepare for the final round of the project.

The summer solstice, which occurs almost at the same time of the meeting in Stockholm, is a metaphor and symbol of the project's final phase, which will then begin. In autumn, all partner areas will organize their final local conferences, and the special highlight will be the Final Conference in Brussels to be held at the City of Vienna/Brussels Office on November 30, 2006.

I hope this newsletter has provided insight into current activities and debate to the partners as well as to a wider audience of readers. I would like to thank the local project managers and the POSEIDON support platforms for their input on pilot activities for the current issue. We hope it has provided useful information to our readers, and any feedback will be received gratefully.

Best wishes,

Susanne Peutl

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