

Editorial:

Step by step our Major Cities of Europe (MCE) organization is improving its value. Our periodical newsletter has now a new look and feel. We hope that you will also find it more relevant for your job and professional interests. We plan to publish it quarterly. Many thanks to our editor Mario Pivac, from the City of Vienna.

Also our web site <http://www.majorcities.eu/> is getting richer including now the presentations and photos of the Rijeka conference, a new section with the reports and presentations of our new workgroup, the knowledge base section with more valuable papers. The contribution of each of you is essential to make the value of our organization increasingly relevant. Please submit the documents and reports that you might wish to share with our community. Your feedbacks and suggestions to improve our newsletter, our portal, our activities and our organization are welcome.

Giorgio Prister, President

Major Cities News

New President and Vice-President

In Mai 2008 Grete Zetterdal left her job at the city of Oslo and thus resigned as president of the MCE. The Organizing Committee of MCE and all the members thank Grete for her excellent representation of the Group in the last years and we all wish her the very best for the future.

In the annual meeting in Rijeka **Giorgio Prister** was elected as new president of the MCE organisation. MCE has now two vice-presidents, that will collaborate with Giorgio in his activity: while **Lorenzo Bandelli** (Trieste) has been confirmed as vice-president he is joined by **Lluís Olivella** (Barcelona) as new vice-president. This team has the mission to continue for next year the valorisation of MCE. The previous support given by **Jörg Wiegand** as secretary of MCE and **Flemming Nielson** as treasurer will continue unchanged.

The members of the MCE management team:



Giorgio Prister
President



Lorenzo Bandelli
Vice-President



Lluís Olivella
Vice-President



Flemming Nielson
Treasurer



Jörg Wiegand
Secretary

MCE Conference in Rijeka 2008

The warm welcome, the perfect organization of the City Rijeka have created the friendly atmosphere to better enjoy the value of the speakers and the debates. The city of Rijeka presented some interesting projects like "Rijeka Intelligent City" and "The multimedia portal". The other sessions have been dedicated to the business transformation of local government cross Europe. E-government 2.0, the Bolkestein EU Directive, green IT, municipal wireless, together with some strategic transformation projects like the ones in Barcelona, Birmingham and Zagreb are just some of the many topics that have kept at high level the discussions between the presenters and the numerous and active participants.



www.rijeka.hr

[more details ...](#)

The Global Forum 2008

Collaborative Convergence - User Empowerment in the Global Digital Economy
Athens – October 21 & 22, 2008

The Global Forum organization has expressed great interest in inviting the Major Cities of Europe members to be part of its think tank in which many cities are already active like San Francisco, Taipei, Paris, Geneva, Rome, Milano etc. We have also got the invitation for one or

Europe members to be part of its think tank in which many cities are already active like San Francisco, Taipei, Paris, Geneva, Rome, Milano etc. We have also got the invitation for one or two of our members, either CIOs or city directors, to be speakers at the conference. As a high-profile international think tank, the Global Forum brings together industry leaders, senior policy makers from national, regional and local governments, civil society leaders, researchers and academic specialists from more than 30 countries around the world. The Global Forum is the leading European event dedicated to Business and Policy issues affecting the successful evolution of the Information Society.

You can enrol at the special cost of 350€ reserved for us by filling in the [registration formular](#).

[more details ...](#)

Large Cities Workgroup

A workgroup of CIOs of large European cities has been created as an initiative of Major Cities of Europe. The workgroup comprises the CIOs of Paris, Barcelona, Milan, Grand Lyon, Vienna, Birmingham, Oslo and Hamburg. It has already met twice. The purpose of the workgroup is to exchange experiences, to widen the knowledge of high value topics of common interest in which each city has been able to experiment and to realize successful projects but also had to face and to resolve problems that are of interest for the workgroup.

In the first meeting each city CIO has presented its ICT situation, on going projects, strategies and plans.

In the second meeting the workgroup members have discussed about the Municipal Wireless projects in each city. The highlights reports and all the presentations are available in the Major Cities website. The results of the Municipal Wireless meeting have been presented during the Rijeka conference.

[more details ...](#)

Interviews: Major Cities Value ...

Lluís Olivella, CIO of Barcelona:

MCE: "Lluís, you are one of the key members of our association now also Vice President. Why you feel that your contribution to our activity is relevant for your job?"

Lluís Olivella:

"I have been many years in the MCE group. During these years MCE has been a forum where to discuss how to face the constant changes in technology and how to apply them to business process of our city services.

Also MCE has permitted me to maintain contacts with other cities of Europe not only during conferences but also feel free to mail for questions or problems that we had in our city. With some of the cities we have developed consortiums to participate in EU projects.

As an IT manager it has been of great value to know other ways of managing IT, different levels of decentralization or outsourcing. Also I expect our experiences in Barcelona have been of value for other colleagues."

Alessandro Musumeci, CIO of the Milano municipality

MCE: "Alessandro you are an active member of the new Major Cities workgroup of Large Cities. Why do you feel it's worthwhile to contribute to it?"

Alessandro Musumeci:

"I feel this is an excellent initiative. The topics we discuss together are of high relevance for each of us. Differently from Central Governments, Local Governments cross Europe have the same priorities."

MCE: "Can you give an example on how you leverage the results of our work group?"

Alessandro Musumeci:

"For example from Paris I took the idea of how they manage with a very innovative automatic electronic system the bicycles that each citizen in Paris can pick up in any bike parking place and return it in a different one. We are now implementing the same now in Milano."

Major Cities Knowledge Base

Local authorities increasingly view broadband as a "utility" like water and electricity that must be made available to their constituents. The efforts of local authorities to bring free or low-cost broadband have sparked a decision-making process inside the EU Commission, and has provoked ruling on whether the expenditure of public monies for such initiatives constitutes unfair use of "state aid." This paper summarizes discussion around the role of cities and regions in promoting broadband services.



Broadband Wireless
and European Cities
at the Public-Access
Crossroads



Municipalities Adopt
Successful Business

Outdoor wireless networks offer compelling benefits to cities of all types: extending services to citizens, encouraging tourism, and helping field-based workers to be more productive and more responsive. Several successful business models for cities have been experiments, including a wholesale business model, a managed services model, and a hybrid approach. Having

By leveraging the web 2.0 paradigms the city of Venice has created a shared knowledge community and related collaborative processes between citizens and the city administration in order to solve in an innovative and effective manner citizens requests and problems.



[more reports and documents can be found here ...](#)

Major Cities of Europe—It users Group e.V. INTERNAL

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