

Institutional presentation

Information and communication technology play a decisive role in the future of our societies and in the sustainable development of our territories, especially in big cities. They can and should be the tools to promote human development, democratic renewal, an economy that takes all its social and environmental responsibilities. This economy should develop by reinventing its models of wealth creation.

The Cluster Green and Connected Cities is designed as an initiative for sharing and mobilizing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the sustainable development of territories. Overall, 21 cities and urban communities in Europe and the Mediterranean, innovative and committed companies, a network of experts, international researchers, associations, institutions, have united to create experience and build innovative and operational initiatives for the sustainable and connected city of the 21st century.

Cluster Operation

Initiated by ACIDD and Grenoble Ecole de Management, the Cluster now has its own functioning. A structural association Act 1901 is created with 5 member colleges: local authorities, large enterprises, training, research and higher education institutions, associations, qualified individuals.

The board has 11 representatives, and will be chaired by a community.

Cluster Outreach

The project was originally positioned as the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean cluster of urban areas around the use of ICTs for sustainable development.

The objective of the Cluster is to reach 21 member cities a year, 7 in France, 7 in Europe and 7 in the Mediterranean and then enable the long-term mobilization of additional local authorities while involving institutions (colleges, agencies, etc..) and by effecting a rotation.

A specific action plan for the development of the "Euro-Mediterranean" involvement of the Cluster is being established. The Maghreb countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia) and Mashreq (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria) are identified as priorities.

First experiments and studies conducted around Ecocentres 2.0.

Ecocentres 2.0

The first initiative launched by the Cluster is the project Ecocentres 2.0. These are new places for sharing in the city center or outskirts. They aim at promoting e-activities for business, public actions and recreation. Organized around telecommuting, these devices will also allow associations and individual users to take advantage of conferencing tools, shared offices, social service and outreach, Internet training and information on sustainable development. These centres are designed to reduce transport waves by encouraging tele-activities while keeping a social bond - sometimes deleted when working at home. They will promote sharing of experience and social mix. The buildings meet specific environmental criteria.

The objective is to develop the "Functional Specifications" of the experimentation project Ecocentres 2.0. This document is the conclusion of the analysis work carried out by six working and active groups led by with two leaders community / company per group.

Leaders were asked in the communities of Bordeaux, Grenoble, Lyon, Nice, Rennes, and Strasbourg, and among the companies Cisco, Orange, PWC, Renault, Schneider, and Veolia..

Upstream experiments to be conducted in 2010, pilot sites are already identified in the cities to confront the working group's conclusions with a practical approach.

The Functional Specifications of Ecocentres 2.0 integrates the results of various cross-sectional studies conducted by the cluster (see below). Group meetings, workshops and study missions enable to express our needs.

Resource Center

The Cluster has a strong and original ambition: to provide opportunities for partners to have a "step ahead" enjoying the multiple benefits related to collective actions.

The 'Resource Centre and Collaborative Platform for Social Networking' of the Cluster Green and Connected Cities is the main tool to promote the implementation of this collaborative project.

Both experiments laboratory focused on new practices to serve the actors in the cluster and regional showcase of innovations in the field of practice, the resource centre is a device that is located on the regional territory and that will accelerate the understanding of practices and results by the largest number thanks to its proximity, its openness and its communication and broadcasting program.

Worldwide Telecentres

To get a clear picture of different types of services and structures that may be related in one way or another to a Ecocentre 2.0, a study was launched to list the telecentres, smart work centres, telecottages and those kinds of institutions that already exist. The results of this study will be presented partly in Strasbourg, and details will be available in February 2010.

Scandinavian sustainable Neighbourhoods

In late November 2009 a small delegation of the Cluster visited Sweden to get closer to European networks that focus on sustainable development in the territories, in order to work together and share our best practices. The main objective of this study trip was to visit exemplary sustainable neighbourhoods and understand its operation.

The Cluster has met the Baltic 21 network, following the proposal made by Ronan Uhel, from the European Environment Agency, at the workshops of Bordeaux, 8 and 9 July. This meeting will lead to a joint network with the Union of the Baltic Cities, and reconciliation with Franco-Swedish designers and experts in sustainable lifestyles and ecological architecture. We have strengthened our relations with Eurocities attending the annual conference, held this year in Stockholm, where we had a rich conversation with Dave Carter from the Manchester Digital Development Agency.

The visit of the main sustainable neighbourhoods, in Malmö and Stockholm has been a learning formalized for all cluster members. The environmental performance are clearly present, the neighbourhoods look very liveable, and we saw that an Ecocentre 2.0 would integrate perfectly and complement the steps implemented to spur more responsible behaviours, and provide sustainable and innovative services. They are in fact fully residential neighbourhoods where transportation, even if less polluting (bikes, public transportation, etc.), are as numerous as elsewhere: residents are working outside, and employees do not live there in general.

To learn more about the Cluster, please visit : www.greenandconnectedcities.eu