

## ***Report of Local Councillors Fringe Meeting*** *19<sup>th</sup> March 2010*

**Participants:** About 15.

**Chair:** Monika Vana (EGP Committee member)

### **1. Project "Green Successes"**

Eva Lichtenberger, MEP, presents the web tool "Green Successes" where examples from capitals and big cities where Greens are represented in the councils shall be collected and provided (via "Google maps") as "inspiration" to Green local councillors.

These could be measures for climate protection and the use of renewable energies in the city, a new qualitative housing project, an interesting project in traffic calming, the introduction of a congestion charge or city toll, successful social projects with young people, unemployed or migrants, etc.

The project should be described like this: Title, city, initiator, realization, description (if possible in English), links, contacts, etc. It is also important to mention HOW GREENS CONTRIBUTED to the realization of the project.

***As soon as there are examples from enough cities (15-20), the project will go on-line!***

Some examples (their composition shall be used as a pattern) have already been sent by Green groups in some city councils: Frankfurt, Helsinki, London, Prague and Vienna.

Frankfurt:

<http://greening.codeon.at/?id=18>

<http://greening.codeon.at/?id=19>

Helsinki:

<http://greening.codeon.at/?id=17>

London:

<http://greening.codeon.at/index.php?id=9>

Prague:

<http://greening.codeon.at/?id=14>

<http://greening.codeon.at/?id=15>

<http://greening.codeon.at/?id=16>

Vienna:

<http://greening.codeon.at/?id=11>

As a second step, the project can be extended to examples from smaller municipalities and connect the topical issues. So, the more feedback we receive, the better the project will develop!

The materials should be sent **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** to [eva.lichtenberger@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:eva.lichtenberger@europarl.europa.eu) with CC to [gerhard.jordan@gruene.at](mailto:gerhard.jordan@gruene.at) .

EGP member and observer parties are asked to pass this call for inputs to their local councillors and to inform them about this opportunity.

Until Summer 2010, the project should develop into a tool that can be used as inspiration for local election campaigns (in Autumn there will be local elections in most Central European countries and in Greece!).

## 2. Planning of further meetings:

### 6<sup>th</sup> "Greens in Big Cities" Meeting (report Gerhard Jordan):

Green municipal councillors from big cities meet every 1-2 years to discuss one topic of urban politics. This process does not have a structure so far and today only works if a hosting party takes over the responsibility to organize such a meeting. The first one took place in Barcelona in 2001, the second in Berlin in 2005 (main topic: urban traffic), the third one in Amsterdam in 2006 (topic: social problems like drugs and prostitution). In autumn 2007, there was the fourth meeting in Vienna on urban planning (the results can be found on <http://wien.gruene.at/greeningcities> ), and the fifth meeting took place in Istanbul in March 2009 (topic: environmental pollution and health).

It was agreed to choose the topic "Green anti-corruption strategies" for the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. LMP Budapest expressed their interest to host this meeting in the second half of September 2010, some weeks before their municipal election. The Green European Foundation (GEF) shall be asked if they can support this project.

Every 2-3 years, there are large **conferences of Green European local councillors**, with around 200-300 participants, co-organized by GGEP and EGP. So far, such conferences took place in Vienna (1996 and 2003), in Barcelona (2006) and in Stuttgart (2009):

[http://www.greens-efa.org/cms/default/dok/262/262996.green\\_deal\\_for\\_greener\\_cities\\_climate\\_ch@en.htm](http://www.greens-efa.org/cms/default/dok/262/262996.green_deal_for_greener_cities_climate_ch@en.htm)

The fifth one is scheduled for 2011. Green parties interested in hosting it are asked to contact Monika Vana from the EGP Committee.

## 3. Reports on local networking

On September 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, the so-called **Central European Round Table of Green Local Councillors** will be held for the 6<sup>th</sup> time (since 2005) in Vienna, organized by Grüne Bildungswerkstatt Austria and Die Grünen Vienna, and supported by the Green East-West Dialogue. The main task of this Round Table is to contribute to the exchange of experiences among local councillors from Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Croatia and other CEE countries. The focus usually lies on campaigning, strategic planning, identifying target groups, party building and party structures, etc. If there are similar cross-border networks in other regions, please send this information to Monika Vana!

## 4. Initiatives and ideas by GEF, GEWD, etc. concerning local politics

GEF is interested in local politics and networking of local councillors. They have not yet decided what kind of support and cooperation they can offer, but they will consider it.

A meeting of all "stakeholders" involved in Green local councillor networking should take place soon in order to find synergies and to increase the flow of concrete inputs.

*Report: Gerhard Jordan*