



EUROPEAN
EDGECITIES
NETWORK

LIVING ON THE EDGE

Though the earth is round
there are cities living on the edge.
Cities on the edge of Europe's capitals.
Cities with common economic
and social challenges.

www.edgocitiesnetwork.com

THE COMMON CHALLENGES FACED BY EDGE CAPITAL CITIES



LEARNING
INSPIRATION
KNOWLEDGE
SHARING
FUTURE
PLANNING
A DYNAMIC
NETWORK

The Edge Cities Network was launched in 1996 and brings together towns and cities on the edge of the capitals of Europe. While they vary in sizes and origins, with different cultures and patterns of development, they all have in common their proximity to the capital of their country.

- As a result of their first meeting, the partners agreed to form a Network of Edge Cities in order to explore the different issues further.

- A formal statement of collaboration was signed by the Councils of the transnational partner areas at a meeting held in Lisbon in 1997.

- The Partners have been collaborating to exchange knowledge, ideas and experiences to initiate and carry out joint projects and activities.

- Edge Cities Network brings together information, experience and best practice of issues relevant to the partners.

- The Network has continued to meet at least twice yearly since 1996.

The Edge Cities Network currently consists of seven European Partners:

Ballerup Kommun | www.ballerup.dk

edge of Copenhagen, Denmark. 47,000 inhabitants

Fingal County Council | www.fingalcoco.ie

edge of Dublin. 240.000 inhabitants

Municipality of Getafe | www.getafeiniciativas.es

edge of Madrid, Spain. 166,000 inhabitants

Grodzisk Mazowiecki | www.grodzisk.pl

edge of Warsaw, Poland. 14,000 inhabitants

Municipality of Kifissia | www.kifissia.gr

edge of Athens, Greece. 60,000 inhabitants

Nacka Kommun | www.nacka.se

edge of Stockholm, Sweden. 84,000 inhabitants

North Down Borough Council | www.northdown.gov.uk

edge of Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK. 75,000 inhabitants

The network is open to new members. And it is also possible that members will leave the network — it's a dynamic process based upon defined needs and benefits.



Hospitalillo de San José, Getafe



Example of Fingal architecture

EDGE CITIES NETWORK MEETS TWICE A YEAR FOR DAYS OF KNOWLEDGE SHARING, DISCUSSIONS, FUTURE PLANNING, INSIGHTS — AND VALUABLE STUDY VISITS.



Cockle Row, Groomsport in North Down



Grodzisk Mazowiecki, with a history stretching to the 13th century



Ballerup Centret, Ballerup



Skater on the ice in Jarla Sjöstad, Nacka

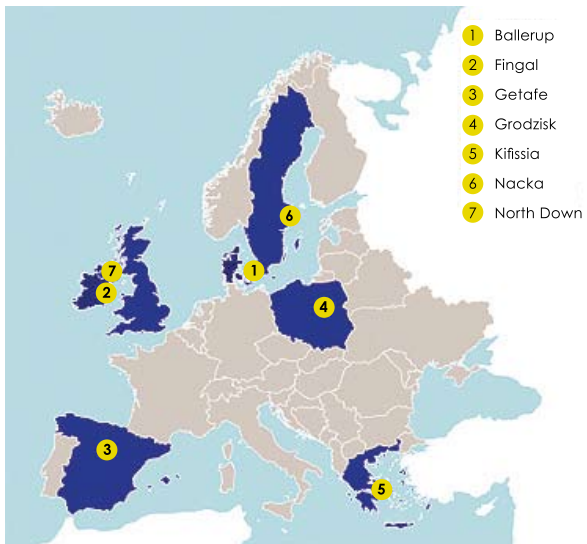


Wind turbine in Bangor, North Down Borough



An ECN delegation on a visit to Kifissia

THE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT OF BEING LOCATED ON THE EDGE OF A CAPITAL CITY



COMMON CHALLENGES

The Partners in ECN have recognised that, although individual Edge Cities vary, they all experience a number of common economic, cultural and social challenges. These result from close proximity to the capital city.

- The Edge City partners have all recognised the intense impact of changing global economic circumstances on the local economy.
- Edge Cities are quickly emerging as an important new development in what until recently has been a residential suburb or semi-rural community. Many having undergone rapid population expansion.
- Living on the edge of the capital tends to stimulate the city's growth in a demanding way. New business areas are being established – together with attractive new industries and residential areas.
- Edge Cities become dynamic and attractive areas that tend to attract highly-skilled, qualified human resources.
- Edge Cities generally experience large inflows and outflows of traffic and people going into and out of the capital city, resulting in traffic congestion and pollution, affecting environmental sustainability.
- Edge Cities are in competition with other green belt areas beyond the city periphery, regarding inward investments - and have to brand themselves professionally to ensure that their chief areas of competitiveness are well known.

In business development and internationalisation

- Working together to share experience in expanding successful businesses as a means to support job creation and growth in Edge City areas.

In culture, education and youth

- Working together on actions concerned with Culture, Education and Youth as a means of reinforcing the cultural identity of Edge Cities.

In social inclusion and social enterprise

- Exchanging experience on strategies to address the issue of deprivation and social exclusion prevalent in many Edge City communities, often due to the polarisation of Edge City areas with areas of affluence contrasting with less advantaged areas.

FOCUS AREAS

The strategic development topics of the next years will to a considerable extent follow the perspectives of the EU Lisbon Strategy for jobs and growth and the new programmes for Regional Development 2007-2013.

In this light ECN will work with different focus areas for example:

Economic growth/competitiveness

Education and innovation

- The Edge Cities network will focus on how the partner municipalities can be prepared for the challenges of a globalized society and a knowledge-based economy. The Network will exchange knowledge and work together on different ways of improving education and innovation in the edge cities.*

- The Edge Cities Network will focus on innovation and entrepreneurship as a tool for growth and jobs in each participating partner area. The activity will enable collaboration between ECN members so that they can share best practices – and to create new methods. ECN is preparing an application for Interreg 4C EU project.*

Health and disease prevention

Public Health

- The Edge Cities Network will focus on how local government can improve health protection and promote healthy lifestyles among citizens and on strategies to create greater awareness about health and disease prevention.*



Citizens and youth participation/ e-government

- The Edge Cities Network will focus on how the partners work with citizen participation and consultation, and how the interaction can be further strengthened.*

Children & Youth participation

- The Edge Cities Network will focus on how the partners involve and cooperate with children and young people. The partners will exchange ideas and knowledge within this field, and learn about the different initiatives and results of the edge cities municipalities.*

The Impact of a global economy, rapid growth and rapid population expansion and immigration.



THE VISION OF THE EDGE CITIES NETWORK

The vision is to constantly improve and qualify the service delivery of each local partner organisation through the network collaboration to the benefit of citizens in the municipalities. The vision will be carried out at all levels in the partner organisations through:

- *discussion of strategies and policies*
- *developing action plans*
- *carrying out common projects*
- *arranging seminars, conferences etc.*
- *establishing thematic subgroups and networks*
- *developing bi-lateral linkages and wider links with other Edge City partners where proper synergies are identified*



New residential areas,
architectural visions, future planning,
rebuilding, culture, innovations
- sharing knowledge and experience

A protocol governing the corporation between the partners of the Edge Cities Network has been agreed by the members

- The Edge Cities Network has two main meetings per year (every six months) hosted by the different Partner municipal authorities.
- The members agree to co-operate in order to share knowledge, develop new models for good practice and to test out new approaches and strategies - both in connection with the meetings, in between the meetings and in carrying out common projects to support sustainable growth and development of the respective towns and cities and to qualify the service delivery.
- The members agree to disseminate the results of this collaboration in order to benefit other edge city areas within the wider Europe.

Mutual aims:

- *Opportunity to learn across borders*
- *Opportunity to transfer knowledge and experiences*
- *Opportunity to discuss mutual economic, social and other issues, challenges and needs*
- *Opportunity to share ideas and strategies, policies and best practice carried out by other Edge Cities*
- *Opportunity to participate in European funded transnational pilot projects in order to address mutual challenges in the edge capital city authorities*

MUTUAL COMMITMENTS

MEMBERSHIP ADVANTAGES



Participants in the Edge Cities Network Meeting in Nacka 2007

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK



The Network shall be a dynamic body with a varying level of activities to assure that all partners always find it relevant to be in the Network.

- **New Members:** Throughout Europe each municipality has its own portfolio, relevant to its development process. In order to assure the most extensive collaboration, it is important to have many different partner municipalities. That is why the Edge Cities Network has an increase in members as a goal.

- **Forum of Elected Members:** The Forum of Elected Members is established in order to strengthen the dialogue and knowledge sharing between the politicians in the member municipalities.

- **Present members:** The Network focuses on how to maintain present members and ensure that the Network becomes deeply rooted in the organisations of the partner municipalities. Each partner should prepare a strategy in order for the Edge Cities Network to become fully integrated in the organisation – both among the politicians and the officials.

Costs: A Membership Fee is required in order to support the costs of the Edge Cities Network to support the running of the network.

JOIN THE NETWORK

The Partners are interested in establishing links with other cities and Towns on the edge of capitals in Europe.

To receive further information, please contact: www.edgecitiesnetwork.com

Ballerup - Susse Botefyhr

Phone: +45 4477 2000

E-mail: sbb@balk.dk

www.ballerup.dk

Fingal County Council - Helen Marry

Phone: +35 31 890 5183

E-mail: helen.marry@fingalcoco.ie

www.fingalcoco.ie

Getafe - Maria Jesus Pedraza

Phone: +34 91 665 36 20

E-mail: mariajesus.pedraza@getafeiniciativas.es

www.getafeiniciativas.es

Grodzisk - Ewa Stepień

Phone: +48 22 755 51 25

E-mail: ewa.stepien@grodzisk.pl

www.grodzisk.pl

Kifissia

Phone: +30 21 06 206 677

E-mail: mladaki@kifissia.gr

www.kifissia.gr

The Municipality of Nacka - Ingegärd Ångström

Phone: +46 8 718 91 28

E-mail: ingegard.angstrom@nacka.se

www.nacka.se

North Down - David Shivers

Phone: +44 28 9147 3788

E-mail: david.shivers@northdown.gov.uk

www.northdown.gov.uk

