

"Science and the City" Conference

1st PLACES Science Cities event

12 October 2010

**Venue: Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences,
rue Vautier 29, B 1000 Brussels**

The Europe 2020 strategy sets as objective smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Science Cities increasingly play a dual role in promoting a culture of science to citizens and using science and technology as a driver to enhance innovation and regional competitiveness highlighted in one of the seven flagship initiatives, the Innovation Union.

Developing and promoting a culture of science in Europe's cities is at the heart of the recently approved PLACES project.¹ The Places project aims to establish a common platform to promote cooperation among a wide and diverse community of actors engaged in Science and Society issues.

The conference will bring together leading experts and examine current European thinking on 'science and the city', introduce the main objectives of the PLACES project and highlight the findings of a current FP7 project, CASC², the MASIS report (Monitoring Activities of Science in Society) and will include good practice case-studies of science and the city.

Draft Programme

- 13.30 Registration and coffee
- 14.00 Welcome by Malcolm Harbour, MEP and Chair of the Internal Market Committee
- 14.15 Overview of EU Policy in Science & Society: Stephen Parker, European Commission, DG RTD, Deputy Head of Unit Scientific culture and gender issues
- 14.45 The PLACES project – main objectives, Antonio Gomes da Costa
- 15.00 Findings from the CASC project: Jackie Homan, Birmingham City Council
- 15.20 Overview of the MASIS Report, Dr Niels Mejlgaard, PhD, Head of Research, Acting Deputy Director, Danish Centre for Studies in Research and Research Policy, University of Aarhus
- 15.40 Coffee break
- 16.00 Case-studies on science as a main driver in economic, social and governance aspects:
 - Birmingham Science City – Dr Norman Price, Chairman, Birmingham Science City
 - Bremen – Jens Joost-Krüger, WFB Wirtschaftsförderung Bremen, Management Science Communication
- 16.30 Reflections: Stephen Parker, European Commission (DG RTD), Prof Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Office in Scotland (ERRIN), Catherine Franche, Executive Director (ECSITE) and Peter Rebernik, Secretary General (EUSCEA) and the European University Association tbc
- 17.20 Conclusions
- 17.30 Networking reception

¹ PLACES (Platform of Local Authorities and Communicators Engaged in Science) is an FP7 Coordination and Support Action, launched in June 2010. It is led by ECSITE, ERRIN, EUSCEA and University of Pompeu Fabra (UPF) and involves more than 67 science communication institutions and 10 regional networks.

² CASC (Cities and science communication) is an FP7 Coordination and Support action that aims to explore and develop innovative approaches to engaging the public in science, by bringing together partners from Europe and China who are already active in this field but working in different social, cultural, economic and political contexts.

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