

# Newsletter

## Dear reader,



**Small and medium-sized cities are at the heart of political and economic actors' concerns.**

These cities are losing their identity and their economic competitiveness, by facing an accelerated

metropolisation, which forces them to find their place around and within large agglomerations such as Lyon, Milan, Munich and Vienna. Moreover the Alpine Space area, due to its territorial characteristics, is particularly concerned by these imbalances. The improvement of cities' performances and capacity to innovate is linked with a necessary reinterpretation of their governance. Cities need to concert each other, involve public and private stakeholders in a multidisciplinary vision in order to develop strategies, which integrate into the large urban policies so that to create a coherent competitive territory...

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## Project status : working on development strategies

The first action developed by the project is an analysis tool of each pilot-site that is a "photography" taking principle characteristics of the pilot-site and of the agglomeration, by which it is influenced. This status has been completed by indicators allowing pilot-cities to compare each other between themselves. This grid of indicators is established in order to measure quality of life in the pilot cities of the Alpine area on the basis of the Leipzig Charter on sustainable cities...

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## InnoCité in a nutshell

The InnoCité European project brings together nine institutions from five countries of the Alpine Space. It has as its aim to deliver in 2011 a complete methodology allowing small and medium sized cities to maximize their development potential against the trend toward centralization around large agglomerations. Through the collection of existing practices, the setting up of pilot-sites, and a fine analysis of the alpine region characteristics, InnoCité is a decision-making aid tool targeting a large public: political, administrative, technical specialists and local private companies.

## Pilot sites focus

**Lombardy Region supports the city development of two medium-sized cities: Voghera, in the periphery of Milan and Darfo Boario Terme, in the periphery of Brescia**

The General Directorate for Commerce, Fairs and Markets of Lombardy Region, partner of the InnoCité project, is supporting two medium-sized cities of its region, Voghera, 39 200 inhabitants at 65 km from Milan, and Darfo Boario Terme, 14 200 inhabitants at 55 km from Brescia and

110 km from Milan, implement new forms of governance for the local town spatial planning decision makers. In the framework of the common methodology developed by InnoCité, local technical committees were set up. One of their first joint work is the defining of the city's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), which will be the base of local strategic and detailed action plans at 3-5 years.

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## Events

- **January 2010:** Comparison of the 9 pilot-sites taking on some 30 criteria, downloadable on the InnoCité website.
- 5<sup>th</sup> transnational InnoCité workshop **January 26th, 27th, 28th** in Milan (Regione Lombardia).

innovating for your city