

## PROGRESS REPORT

**From 01/09/2011 to 07/12/2011**

Name of the Asia-wide Programme :  
**Non-State Actor and Local Authorities in Development**

Contract reference no.: **Europeaid/129200/c/ACT/TPS**

Project Title: **EAST - Euro – Asia Sustainable Towns**

Name of Beneficiary: **European New Towns & Pilot Cities Platform**

Period covered by this Quarterly Update: **01/09/2011 – 07/12/2011**

Due date of this Quarterly Update: **09/09/2011**

<i>Project Budget</i>	<i>677,100.00EUR</i>
<i>Funds Disbursed by Commission to date (21.03.2011 - 30.06.2011)</i>	<i>26,452.89EUR</i>
<i>Expenditure Incurred by Project to date (21.03.2011 - 30.06.2011)</i>	<i>35,270.52EUR</i>

*Please note that the first partner's claim is expected at the beginning of 2012 so budget figures will change at that time.*

### I. Introduction

After the kick off meeting that took place in Brussels on March (28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>), the partners have continued working together with a series of partners meetings that gathered participation of all partners and elective representatives.

- Week of September 26<sup>th</sup> **panel of experts in Naya Raipur** (see details and report). This panel is replacing the panel of experts planned in Ahmedabad in the action plan of the project.
- October 12<sup>th</sup>, Meeting with the Euro-India forum and the representatives of Raipur and Naya Raipur in Brussels and Leuven (costs of this meeting are not integrated in the project).
- Week of November 7<sup>th</sup>: **Meeting in Baoshan and Qingpu districts** with the Indian project's partners
- November 30<sup>th</sup>: meeting with the pilot experts from "Les Ateliers" to plan the next milestones in organizing the international workshops of urban design

Through these meetings, the partners have exchanged knowledge and reached some agreements, as well as with diverse presentations and deep discussions. In a word the seminar has set up the milestones for the future joint actions.

During this period expect the kick-off meeting; we are setting the milestones for the next meetings:

- Preparatory visit with pilot experts to Naya Raipur the week of February 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 or February 27<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will also be the opportunity to meet with the European Commission's delegation. The main objective of this visit is to prepare the urban planning workshops (that will take place in 2012 or 2013).
- Organization of a side workshop in Baoshan district the week of March 26<sup>th</sup>. This side workshop will be organized in the framework of the Chinese municipalities gathering organized by the Development and Reform Commission about sustainable cities. The project will be presented at this main event taking place in the Baoshan district/
- The experts panel in Qingpu will be organized in June 2012 or at the beginning of 2013 depending on the level of preparation.

In parallel, to increase the mutual understanding in the term of new towns development at European and Asian level, several researches and studies are unfolding by the partners, especially with regard to the aspects, strategies and performances on the theme of development of Indian and Chinese new towns.

## II. Implementation of Activities

**The activities as integrated in the application form are based on 3 pillars:**

- The activities aiming at managing the exchanges between the partners; coordinating the actions at the partners level; and disseminating information and project results to the final beneficiaries as well as to other interested local authorities – **Pillar I**; This pillar has taken a lot of time for the partners and especially the lead partner during this first phase of the project.
- The activities focusing on the exchange of knowledge between the partners through the elaboration of tools and identification of the common patterns and characteristics of those new towns. The activities of this category aim also at contributing to the elaboration of a methodology, concepts and implementation of pilot actions fostering the sustainable management of new towns and satellite cities in Asia – **Pillar II**;
- Capacity-building activities, targeting local teams, including the creation of transferable pedagogical tools and implementation instruments of the project results – **Pillar III**.

The activities of those three pillars are mutually reinforcing and will be implemented simultaneously throughout the four years of the project.

### **Pillar I - Communication, coordination and management of the network**

#### 1) **Activities of coordination and exchange networks**

- The creation of an internal coordination team by the lead partner and in all the partner organizations has been settled; The Chinese team will be coordinated with the help of the Shanghai foreign office which is actually helping the partnership to implement the activities together with the two districts involved,
- The identification of contact persons bridging the gap between the various partner cities and organisations (all the partners);
- The creation of a local operational team in each city partner: the first months of the project will be dedicated to the creation of local teams composed of relevant persons in each participant city teams. A database of all the participants in the project is being created and each local team has chosen a contact person who will be identified as local coordinator for the whole duration of the project;
- The organisation of a kick-off meeting of the project has taken place in Brussels (March 2011) gathering all the partners in order to discuss about the next steps of the project, to learn more about each. This meeting has

been conceived first and foremost as a technical meeting in order for all partners to start from a shared vision of the project but also involved a lot of stakeholders and external participants see report;

- The website is online: <http://www.east-project.org> and is used as an internal communication platform between the partners (lead partner) to exchange documents, agendas, guidelines, etc.

All those preliminary steps will contribute to the establishment of solid contacts between the partners and further long-term knowledge-sharing and networking practices during the whole duration of the project, accordingly to **result 5**. Those steps will also allowed the partners to develop a shared-vision of the project from the very beginning and this will foster an efficient dialogue between the partners.

As a burden however and as explained in our letter dated of October 28<sup>th</sup> it has been difficult to set up further contacts with Ahmedabad council (associate partner). However in the framework of the international workshops of urban design to be organized in November 2012, the CEPT a research center in Ahmedabad highly specialized in urban planning issues will be closely associated to the workshops.

## 2) **Creation and implementation of local support groups**

Those groups will be created by each partner city. Their creation in itself will be part of the promoted integrated approach, including all the relevant local stakeholders interested in sustainable urban development. The persons involved in the local support group has been communicated to us for Naya Raipur.

## 3) **Creation and implementation of a communication plan**

The communication plan is still under development. One newsletter has been disseminated for the project. In addition, the website of the project has been conceived as a communication tool both for the project partners and for the general public. Its language is in English. The website can be accessed at the link: <http://www.east-project.org>

## **Pillar II –Elaboration of tools and pilot actions**

### 5) **Elaboration of a comparative research on the creation of new towns in Asia**

This comparative study about Asian new towns and satellite cities has started by the collection of documentation from Naya Raipur, New Towns around Shanghai and the Qingpu district. It will be designed as a diagnostic of Asian New Towns, gathering data and analyses in a cross-cutting perspective, integrating various aspects of the Asian new towns today (social, political, institutional, environmental, economic, urban or historical dimensions).

The comparative study will also build on the characteristics and experience of New Towns, identifying good and bad practices and obstacles that those new towns are experiencing today in the implementation of sustainable policies but will also analyze local contexts as the scale is different.

The collection of information has been easier in India because all documents are accessible in English (master plan, presentations of the panel, analysis of problems and studies). For the chinese partners some documentation like the Powerpoint presentations have been accessible to us.

A scientific committee will be created with the Euro India forum and the ENTP being in charge of the coordination.

#### 6) Adoption of local action plans for sustainable urban development

Those local action plans will aim at enhancing an integrated approach in terms of urban development at the local level, with a strong focus on sustainability in the frame of the construction and of the development of existing new towns or satellite cities. The local plans will be adopted in the following years of the project taking into account the recommendations of the events.

### **Pillar III - Capacity-building and expert panels**

#### 8) Organization of three expert panels gathering European and Asian experts on the following themes

##### **Organization of one panel of experts in Naya Raipur week of September 26<sup>th</sup> 2011:**

The European partners of the EAST project have organized a visit to the city of Raipur and New Town of Naya Raipur the week of September the 26<sup>th</sup> 2011.

The objectives of the visit were to set up the framework for future cooperation with NRDA<sup>1</sup> (milestones, events, future cooperation) and to organise an international workshop of urban planning in November 2012 (in partnership with *Les ateliers*<sup>2</sup>).

The mission was organized in 4 steps:

- A guided tour to Raipur and the site of Naya Raipur /09.
- A seminar (conference) gathering experts and other local authorities 27/09.
- A partners meeting 28/09.
- A meeting with the EU Delegation in Delhi 30/09.

The participants represented the following organizations: the Euro-India Centre<sup>3</sup>(Pr. Isabelle Milbert), Les Ateliers (Nicolas Détrie and Florence Bougnoux), Basildon Council (Gunilla Edwards), and the ENTP<sup>4</sup> (Pascaline Gaborit and Edoardo Guglielmetti).

**The results and recommendations of the panel are described in Annex 1.**

#### 9) Organization of three study seminars and visits involving local, national and transnational actors

This training and networking objective (**result 1 and 5**) will be also the main driving principle of the elaboration and implementation of the three study seminars and visits of the project. Those events will provide the partners with the tools to develop together a methodology to help local stakeholders to implement sustainability principles in their new towns/satellite cities (**result 4**). Those seminars will be opened to the technicians and teams of the partner cities and will contribute to the training and capacity-building of local teams. Each seminar will last several days and will also provide the partners with the opportunity to work on concrete problems concerning urban development in their cities and to disseminate practical tools and instruments.

- On e thematic seminar will be organized in Shanghai region/**Baoshan district at the end of March 2012:** The main theme will be : **How to make New Towns more sustainable?: Key principles, prospective, transport and indicators.** This seminar will gather public and private representatives, urban developers,

<sup>1</sup> Naya Raipur Development Authority, [www.nayaraipur.com](http://www.nayaraipur.com)

<sup>2</sup> International Workshop of Urban Design, <http://www.ateliers.org>

<sup>3</sup> [www.the-euroindia-centre.org](http://www.the-euroindia-centre.org)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.pilotcities.eu>

transport companies, local authorities and regional governments, as well as other local authorities' networks. This seminar will be a side event of the of the Chinese municipalities gathering organized by the Development and Reform Commission about sustainable cities. It will also focus on the issue of migrant workers / low income groups. Indeed, **in China**, as stated earlier, the unprecedented economic growth rate has led to the development of Chinese cities (mainly located in the more prosperous coastal regions) as major centres, gathering industrial and service activities and attracting a new labor force coming from poorer central Chinese regions. Apart from the main conference, the project's partners will organize a workshop of discussion.

- Another main project's event will be organized in **India/New Raipur in November 2012**: The main theme of this event will be **Energy, green spaces and water management but can be reframed later. It can also be reoriented towards the process of the new town's creation and the links with the capital city of Raipur**. This seminar will take the form of an international workshop following the methodology developed by the International Workshops of Urban Design of Cergy Pontoise.

At this seminar experts will be invited from different key areas such as sustainable renovation, eco construction public and private sector, water management companies etc. It will gather for 2 weeks 21 urban planners and experts from multi disciplinary teams to work on a concrete topic. In addition 10 participants will be invited to a jury panel to select the best proposals.

The workshop will deploy with an active and participative methodology which is based on strengthened networking and knowledge-sharing practices between the partners and the coordination team. Thus this methodology would contribute to ensure a high-level technical capacity to the project with local aspect.

The workshop would concentrate on challenges related to the sustainable urban development of new towns and satellite cities. The workshop aims at the core issues such as the climate change, the efficiency of energy use in order to come out with useful measures to improve the capacity of energy use and deliver a balanced solution to tackle climate change. The participants comprised of local actors, officers in charge of the city urban development at local and state level, institutional partners and international experts would provide a feedback about the propositions and identify the most relevant elements of analysis to be implemented by the local authorities. The workshop is therefore not a competition, but rather a tool for capacity building and collective production of new analysis. This kind of activity would benefit from a permanent follow-up and keep a focus on recommendations in the field of the environment and local governance.

The schedule and meetings necessary to organize these panels are:

- Meeting in Naya Raipur (see partners meeting)
- Meeting of Pilot experts Brussels (2011)- report of the meeting
- Meeting 1 technical team in Naya Raipur February 2012
- Meeting 2 technical team in Naya Raipur June 2012
- Official report/Studies call for experts
- Selection of experts
- 2 European/Indian assistants will work one month on the preparation of the workshop in Raipur.

- November 2012: 2 weeks workshop with the participation of 21 experts the 2 weeks and 10 official representatives for the Jury.

## II. Partnership

The role of each partner and their responsibilities has been defined by the participation of activities.

### **Partner 1: ENTP (European New Town Platform)**

As a leader partner, ENTP coordinates all the activities of the partners and associates for the project, organized the different events and started the research. In addition ENTP is in charge of all the communication tools of the project such as website, logo design and newsletter.

### **Partner 2: Baoshan District Develop and Reform Committee**

The Baoshan district has welcome a European and Indian delegation in November 2011 and is planning to host the next seminar at the end of March 2012.

### **Partner 3: People's Government of Qingpu District**

The Qingpu districts has prepared background documentation for the research and has started to plan the experts panel to be organized on their territory.

### **Partner 4: Basildon District Council**

As a good model of European new town, Basildon represents a European new town. Basildon has participated actively to the experts panel in Naya Raipur by proposing concrete cooperation activities with the SMEs based on their territory for instance in the area of eco construction.

### **Partner 5: Naya Raipur Development Authority**

Naya Raipur has been very active in the development of all activities and this despite of the fact that they cannot receive EU funds. .

They have hosted the **panel of experts in September**. This panel is replacing the panel of experts planned in Ahmedabad in the action plan of the project.

In October 12<sup>th</sup> they have attended to the meeting in Brussels (costs of this meeting are not integrated in the project) and November 7<sup>th</sup> the meeting in Shanghai, Baoshan and Qingpu.

They will host the next study visit in February and host the international urban planning workshop in November 2012.

### **Partner 6: The EuroIndia Centre**

The EuroIndia Centre brings its expertise in the fields of urban issues to contribute to comparative study on Asian new towns, notably the Indian new towns. They have participated in the experts panel in Naya Raipur

### **Partner 7: The International Workshops of Urban Design**

It concentrates on the preparatory tasks for the international workshop. They have participated in the visit to Naya Raipur in September 2011 and have appointed the pilot experts working on the project. They plan to participate in the next event in February 2012.

## **IV. Methodology**

The methodology for this project is based on strengthens networking and knowledge-sharing practices between the partners and the experts. The project will be developed with respect to the mutual agreement and equal responsibilities among partners.

The core idea of the project is the improvement of the capacities of local teams involved in the construction and management process of Asian new towns and satellite cities, with a strong focus on the reinforcement of the awareness of the public sector in the regions and municipalities involved in the project. In order to achieve such objectives, **the partners focus on the following elements:**

### **An integrated working method promoted by the panels and workshops**

In order to enhance the implementation of integrated sustainable urban approaches on the territory of each partner, the project develops a strong focus on local integrated actions, through the creation of local support groups in city partners, for instance by involving all the stakeholders in the different teams of the different events (panels and workshops). Those groups gather local representatives and local administrative and technical teams in charge of all the relevant policies as well as stakeholders from the private sectors or from the civil society. Those groups are both driving forces and catalyst elements for the elaboration of adapted urban development strategies, the identification of challenges and needs of the inhabitants and local stakeholders. The local support groups will actively take part in the preparatory phase of the elaboration of the local action plans the local authorities will adopt and in the pilot actions in the local districts.

### **Capacity-building actions in terms of technical, urban and environment issues: studies, exchanges and evaluation**

The project will provide with an important contribution to the capacity-building of local teams and the awareness-raising of various categories of the local population in the partner cities:

- 1) **Reinforce the capacities of local teams** in charge of urban and environment policies (250 people)
- 2) **Create and disseminate guides of good practices**, documents and pedagogic and operational tools
- 3) **Assess and provide knowledge exchange practices** about the policies of management and creation of the new towns and satellite towns between European and Asian new towns.

The **expert panels** will try to create tools collectively in order to identify the answers to the specific challenges raised by the creation and development of satellite towns close to big cities in Asia. It is important to note that those challenges are mainly linked to the need to develop a global and integrated vision of the satellite city within its metropolitan area while taking into account environmental, climatic, economic and social aspects.

In addition to those training sessions, a **comparative study** about Asian new towns is being carried out by the lead partner in cooperation with all the partners of the project. This cross-cutting study will take into account social, economic, environmental or institutional and urban elements. This study will be published and disseminated among the teams involved in the project as well as other stakeholders involved and interested in this field. This study will allow the partners to identify and analyse case studies illustrating various practices which have already be implemented in Asian and European new towns. This analysis will



then be disseminated among all interested stakeholders, while its final results will be presented to the final beneficiaries through articles published in local medias.

Moreover, those studies and knowledge exchange practices will be used as a reference framework to feed and organise the work of the local support groups and for the future local plans and pilot actions.

**Improvement of measures to preserve the local environment and fight against climate change**

This project contributes to the reinforcement and to the promotion of the integration of environmentally-friendly processes and approaches into the local policies developed by the partners involved in the project. This will be achieved through a better coordination of the actions and actors involved in the local public decision-making processes. For instance, this integrated approach will lead to:

- a potential decrease of the risks of pollution and urban sprawl thanks to the improvement of the making and implementation of local land-use policies;
- the implementation of relevant and adapted pilot actions in clearly identified local districts;
- the dissemination and reproduction of those actions in other districts, accordingly to local contexts

**Opportunities to reproduce and expand the project expected results**

There are various ways to disseminate and reproduce the results of this project. Indeed, urban-planning, environment preservation, and adaptation to climate change are becoming key priorities for European as well as Asian countries, especially when they face geophysical and environmental threats (earthquakes for instance) while hosting several thousands, or even millions, of inhabitants. As such, the tools created by the partners to enhance the sustainable development of Asian satellite cities will be conceived in order to be easily transferred to other similar urban contexts. Moreover, the organization of international workshops of urban planning in Naya Raipur will foster the implementation and strengthening of local sustainable public policies.

**Development of an integrated approach including cross-cutting questions**

The project focuses on the integration of several themes within the tools and strategies developed to foster sustainable urban planning and metropolitan governance. For instance, the preservation of environment, which is at the heart of sustainable development and thus one of the key objectives of the project, will be one of the main fields considered within all the project activities.

Therefore environment preservation will be integrated within the management method of the actions, the project partners being committed to respect environmental compatibility and sustainability criterion. They will avoid travels and will prefer videoconferences when possible. Social cohesion and economic development, the two other key pillars of the concept of sustainable development, will also be key reference and recurrent elements of the project (both themes being included in the themes of the study seminars for instance).

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