



# Declaration of Magdeburg

## Of the First European Congress of Science Cities

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## 1. The Science Cities in Europe

Considering the global economic competition of the upcoming decades, the capabilities of science and research belong to the limited resources and to the individual characteristics of the EU states. They belong to the so called creative industries, and the global competitiveness of the European economy will depend on their fortification and promotion. Science and research deal and trade with European knowledge, European education, and European culture - the invaluable capabilities, which provide Europe with the most important individual characteristics within the global competition of business locations.

At the same time, European cities undergo a structural change. They are often confronted with a breakdown of entire industry sectors, which in many cases have shaped the industrial location as the only industry over many decades. This development comes along with a dramatic rise of unemployment and with a sudden decline of municipal identity.

Driven by this menacing loose of futuristic perspectives and aiming at the achievement of a sustainable development, cities and communities throughout Europe are searching for new individual commercial characteristics, for settlements and therewith also for a new identity. More and more cities discover the capacities to use science and research, which are settled within their municipal borders, for an innovative development and for a sustainable structural change.

Already 50 cities have applied for the competition of the title "Stadt der Wissenschaft" (City of Science) during the last three years in Germany. All of them demonstrated with their application their self-conception of being a "City of Science" or their ambition to cope with all efforts in order to become one. To be a "Stadt der Wissenschaft" (City of Science) means to them to be a city of innovation and of technological change and to be identified like that by national and European allies and within the self-conception of the population.

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities are deeply convinced that the commercial force of the EU states within the global competition depends on the attractiveness and innovative power of their cities and communities. With powerful parameters like research and education of the urban population, the cities are the engine of commercial development.

The promotion of knowledge is therefore of highest interest for the participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities. Furthermore, local and regional politics pay special attention to the promotion of science and research.

## 2. Common challenges for the European „Science Cities“

A lot of cities in Europe can look back on a splendid tradition of education and research, either in the domain of humanities or in the domain of engineering. Very often, they have already been centres of intellectual life and science for many centuries.

Yet, in most cases, the social development in Europe, the national and European politics of science and of economy have led to a present, which is characterised by weak connections between scientific institutes and their "Heimatkommunen" (home communities). This development took place out of many

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reasons and due to good causes: as there is for instance the political attribution of competence and of financing the science within national and federal administrations or the fact that researchers and scientists are nationally and internationally orientated.

Nevertheless, in the past years, more and more communities have worked on closer relationships to "their" scientific institutions. A lot of European regions are undergoing or are just about to undergo a comprehensive structural change of their economic locations and therewith of their population and their municipal identity as well. Many communities have recognised the chance to use the innovative capacity of science in order to reconstruct their commercial locations and to create a new perception of identity within the population.

In the past three days, the participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities have heard various strategies and best-practice examples. We are proud of the Science Cities, which could already talk about their significant results, which they have achieved due to their commitment.

In particular, there are various experiences in organising a year under a special subject "Jahr der Wissenschaft" (year of science). In Germany, years of science have already taken place by the winners of the competition „Stadt der Wissenschaft“ (City of Science) in Bremen and in Dresden just as in Brunswick in 2007. Barcelona also plans a year of science for 2007. The central aim of all years of science is to introduce the whole population of the cities with all their different target groups to the subject of science, to literally infect them with it and give them the identity to live in a Science City.

The year of science has shaped the host city of the European Congress of Science Cities in a special way. Here not only scientific institutions but also the entire city with all its institutions, churches, schools, sport clubs, theatres, museums, and even police stations and the local traffic have been successfully involved. More than 200 events have taken place - from theatre performances with a scientific reference, across public experiments, congresses, and scientific conferences up to student parties and festivals. The population uses with the public local transport system „Science-busses“ and reads scientific columns in the local papers every day of the entire year. Six big events from the RoboCupJunior tourney, the World Championship Qualification of robots soccer players, across a folk festival of science at the port of science which is being created at the moment and the Late Night of science up to the unique historical exhibition of the European Council "Das Heilige Römische Reich Deutscher Nation" (The Saint Roman Empire of German Nation) – they all give the year of science its highlights.

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities wish to continue this way. They are aware of the fact that the development of commercial characteristics for Europe referring to the global competition requires the fortification of the European forces - innovation and science - and at many places, a rethinking of the traditional European politics of science and economy and of the fact how they are fostered. The signatories intend to promote this rethinking in their regions and to function as engine of the European development.

This aim shall be reached together with and for the good of the population living in our regions. We all concentrate on supporting the development of our regions ambitiously in order to shape them to creative and dynamic locations of economy and science. To do so we use all possibilities of transnational co operations just as common networks, offered by the EU, in an optimal way. The promotion of science and of its intersections with all the other areas of life in our communities will reach the population in any social

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domain. Step by step improvements of conditions will support the efforts to create transnational contacts, co operations and the intercultural dialogues effectively.

The basis is our competitive capacities of economy and innovation, our infrastructures, our broad knowledge and highly qualified population just as our various high quality cultural activities and offers.

To the most important challenges of the European Science Cities belong:

- The intensive and lasting connection of science and economy within their communities and locations
- The use of the capacities of science within the cities in order to create an innovative marketing of the city and strong regional identities of the population
- The planning and construction of effective and long-lasting structures within the city councils, which are qualified to promote the „new“ subject of science and to reach medium- and long-termed aims.
- Create positive conditions for the settlement of scientific institutions
- Create an open relation between our population and science, its operation methods and its results of research

### 3. Science City and the connection of science and economy

Traditionally, issues like science, education, and research are linked closely to cultural affairs in European states and administrations of a national, regional and community level. This anchorage is at the same time product and basis of an outstanding and shaping European culture compared to other cultures of the world. We are proud of this tradition and want to further promote it.

In times of globalisation and of the worldwide competition of the economic locations, the states of the European Union are confronted with an inescapable setting the course. The EU commission has shown the right direction in demonstrating the fortification of the “creative industries” for an auspicious future of the European commercial locations as one of its aims. The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities appreciate the European Commission’s political orientation on the fortification of the “creative industries” and support it emphatically.

An essential part of this development is the closer connection of the political fields of economy and culture on all territorial levels from the European to the local one. The understanding of the economy of culture as driving power for the development of the entire economy is a strong area of the „creative industries“. It is therefore essential to think of the cultural policy as a policy of economy, whereas the policy of economy needs to cope with the characteristics of the economy of culture.

The science inheres a linking role in this process of connection. It is positioned since various years in the area of conflict between the policy of economy and the policy of culture. The connection of both competences - economy and science - creates innovative concepts for the development of Science Cities.

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At the same time, the settlement of educating scientific institutes plays a very important role. These institutes shall be used as steering instruments for the demographical development of the region, which needs to be understood and operated proactively by the communities. The European and interregional networking of communities is one important aim of our policy for the synergies between our locations of economy and of science, just as it is the other way around - the use of existing scientific and economic networks for the population of our cities.

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities are aware of the responsibility carried by all actors in the fields of science, economy, and policy in this development. We want to work out, try out, and exchange instruments and methods together in co-operations, in order to promote this development and to create a trendsetting connection of science, culture, and economy as part of the daily life and work in our communities.

#### 4. Science City and an innovative marketing of the city

Nowadays, many European cities are shaped by a dramatic structural change of their economy and population. This change very often takes place due to the breakdown of entire industry sectors, which functioned as the main creator of value in the region. In Europe, especially the regions, which were formerly shaped by mining, shipbuilding, and construction of heavy equipment, or by the steel industry just as more and more often the auto car industries, are affected.

The regions are faced with a new positioning of their economy locations on the one side and on the other side with a dramatic crisis of identity of their population. The structures of population and therewith the social identity of our cities have very often been and still are characterised by the manpower requirements of the industry sectors which no longer exist. The socially responsible actors therefore face the central task of promoting a new sustainable identity for the communities and their population in these European regions.

The innovation of the domiciled scientific institutions plays an important role. Together with long-termed aims of development of the regional and municipal strategy of development and with an innovative marketing, the innovation of the scientific institutions may provide the population with a new identity and gain a new positive image for the domiciled science and economy.

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities want to organise cooperative projects and use their European networks in order to use the science and its capabilities to gain an intensive change of image and a sustainable new identity. We want to exchange experiences and learn from "best-practice-examples" to try new models and possibilities.

#### 5. Science City and Local Administrative Structures

More and more European communities and regions see themselves as active and proactive actors for the development of their economic locations. As new actors in the fields of policy of science and promotion of science they face which form and which structure would suit best for them out of the reasons, which are described under point 3.

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All Science Cities are confronted with the challenge to find clear structures within the city council for the municipal promotion of science in order to become an efficient and target orientated proactive city in Europe. The central aim is the efficient coordination of the municipal policy in this field just as the close co-operation with the people in charge of the domiciled scientific institutions just as with the actors of the fields of economy and culture of the Science Cities.

Different experiences have been made by the European cities. Some have settled the field of science structurally into the municipal policy of culture. Others have authorised the municipal business development with it. Barcelona has bundled its activities within a municipal „Institut de Cultura“ and at an appointee of the Lord Mayor for the development of the location of science already some years ago. Other European cities like Aachen have also established an appointee for the development of the location of science. In many cities like for instance Magdeburg, individual offices have been created within the city council in order to organise the „Jahr der Wissenschaft“ (the year of science). At the end of the year of science, these cities are often confronted with the question in what kind of structure shall the new office be integrated?

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities want to exchange their experiences they have made with these challenges, analyse them, try new possibilities, and provide all interested European cities with their experiences.

## 6. The regional and national supporters of the Science Cities

Various actors of the European associations support the commitment of the Science Cities. In Germany for instance, the "Stifterverband der Wirtschaft für die Wissenschaft" (founder association of the economy for science) has founded the national competition „Stadt der Wissenschaft“ already three years ago. This competition has already motivated more than 50 cities to declare themselves to Science Cities and promote the development of the city with an individual scientific program.

A program „Stadt der Wissenschaft“ also exists in Russia. It is operated by the central government and promotes with an even higher financial amount the scientific development of the cities who have won the competition.

The European Commission has also recognised the promotion of science on a local level and has promoted it in a first project. Under Barcelona's leading management various European cities and public institutions of business development are convened in the project ESCITY. The aim of this project is to create guidelines, which shall provide all interested cities with recommendations for a local strategy of science. The aim of the ESCITY project is to establish a network of Science Cities throughout Europe.

## 7. The EU policy of science and the Science Cities

During the past months, the European Commission has announced an active European role for the fortification of the „creative industries“. The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities welcome this political orientation of the European Commission and support them emphatically.

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When realising appropriate policies and programs, these approaches have to be followed during the upcoming months via a proactive role of the European Commission.

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities request the European Commission and the national governments to coordinate the policies of business development and the promotion of the „creative industries“. Both fields of policy belong together inseparably at the municipal and at the regional level just as at the development of locations of science, culture and economy.

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities request the European Commission and the national governments to recognise the communities as important driving power and as lobby for the policy of science and for the “creative industries” in Europe. We explicitly indicate the important role of the creative and growing field of science for the municipal structural change and for sustainable development of locations especially for economically underdeveloped regions in Europe and ask the European Commission to support the development of the Science Cities with precise political programmes.

Especially, an adjustment of the promoting programmes for the field of science and of the creative industries shall be achieved. Here, the communities shall function as project executing organisation.

WE request the EU Commission just as the national and regional governments to analyse the results of the outstanding German municipal competition „Stadt der Wissenschaft“ just as the Russian program „Stadt der Wissenschaft“ and to make conclusions for a possible introduction of an European competition of the Science Cities.

## 8. The Regional Policies of the European Union and the Science Cities

The regional policy just as its promoting programmes and its structure-funds take up a great part of the promotion of the development of regions and locations in the European Union.

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities request the European Commission and the national governments to recognise the European communities and cities as actors which are interested in the regional development of science and innovation just as in the development of projects and which furthermore also organise the projects.

We request the EU-Commission to consider our interest of a target orientated promotion of the business locations with scientific subjects and to consider the agreements with municipal development strategies of the Science Cities when it plans, announces, and awards regional promotion funds.

## 9. The European network of the Science Cities

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities know that the main conditions of the development of economy and science are appointed on the European and international levels and not any longer on a national or regional level. A lot of discussions and projects with people in charge of political, economical, and scientific issues have shown that the cooperation needs to be intensified further and optimised via a systematic, lasting, multilateral cooperation.

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The fixed aims of the European business-cities can only be realised successfully, if the interested cities and regions form a strong network with appropriate structures. The European Congress of Science Cities in Magdeburg was one first step to such a network. It was not the first step and many others will follow.

Magdeburg has already initiated a conference in 2005. It took place in Brussels under the title „Innovationen für die Europäische Stadt der Wissenschaft“ (innovations for the new European Science City). 200 delegates of different European regions just as representatives of the EU-Commission and of the EU Committee participated at this conference. The main target was to transfer the positive issues of the German municipal competition to European dimensions.

At the beginning of 2006, the EU-project ESCITY was founded with Barcelona functioning as lead-management. This project plans on developing guidelines to provide all interested European cities with recommendations of creating a local structure of science. This initiative is supported by the following cities: Tromso/Norway, Vienna /Austria and scientific institutions in Portugal and Italy. The associations „Eurocities“ and „United Cities and local governments“ accompany it.

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities welcome the attempt of the EU-project „ESCITY“ to grow to an European network of the Science Cities.

This network of European Science Cities should:

- Lead to a further improvements of the cooperation via a network of multifaceted bilateral and multilateral respectively co operations between the actors of the participating cities
- Plan and realise common projects for a cooperative and transnational development of the Science Cities
- Initiate a multifaceted commitment and cooperation of different social and entrepreneurial institutions within the regions of science
- Express common positions of the Science Cities towards the European policy of science and of regions and represent them to European and national politicians.

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities feel committed to achieve an economic prosperity and wealth on the one hand and on the other to realise same opportunities for man and women just as to fulfil a sound environment while building up a common network of the European Science Cities.

## 10. Summary and Perspective

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities herewith declare themselves to „Science Cities“! In their upcoming network, they will define criteria and guidelines, which have to be fulfilled by European cities in order to become „Science Cities“.

The actors of the participating cities will continue all activities of co operation in order to achieve the described aims. Furthermore, they will deepen the cooperation as much as possible according to the possibilities of the European Union in order to reach a European added value.

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The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities want to strengthen the programmes „Science & Society“ just as „Regions of Knowledge“ within the scope of the 7th supporting programme of research of the European Union and open them further to be used by the municipal networks.

The representatives of scientific institutions who have participated in the First European Congress of Science Cities support the efforts of the Science Cities mentioned above. They commit to contact all important policy makers and partners and gain them for the construction of the network of European Science Cities.

Additional to the promotion of the projects mentioned above, it is planned to organise an annual Congress of European Science Cities, in order to establish the progressive network of the Science Cities. Barcelona will be the scene for the Second European Congress of Science Cities in 2007.

Magdeburg, November 9<sup>th</sup> 2006

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities

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