

## Declaration of Magdeburg

The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities recognise that science, creative and knowledge based industries are driving forces of sustainable economic growth, along with employment and urban development to realise the Lisbon Strategy on a local level.

Considering the global economic competition of the upcoming decades, science and research belong to the limited resources and to the individual characteristics of the EU states. The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities are deeply convinced that the economic force of the EU states within the global competition depends on the attractiveness and innovative power of their cities. With powerful parameters like research and education of the urban population, the cities are the engine of economic development.

A lot of European regions are in the process of a comprehensive structural change of their economy and industry. Many cities have recognised the chance to use the innovative capacity of science in order to build on their economic, social and cultural identity. The promotion of knowledge is considered a priority to achieve this aim. Therefore, local and regional politics must pay special attention to the promotion of science and research.

To us a Science City means ...

- ... to create a climate of tolerance and respect of cultural differences.
- ... to promote an intense and lasting connection of science, economy and culture within our cities and to work with all parties concerned.
- ... to foster a science culture whereby citizens are involved in decision making and help promote a strong regional identity.
- ... to use the science culture to promote the cities nationally and internationally.
- ... to set in place structures to ensure life-long learning from kindergarten to university and beyond.
- ... to secure equal opportunities for all citizens and to promote a family-friendly society.
- ... to establish a European and inter-regional network between Science Cities.
- ... to work in cooperation with Science Cities from across Europe to develop, exchange methods and experiences and to learn from "good-practice-examples".

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... to support the ambitions of the EU project „ESCITY“ to develop a European network of Science Cities, which should:

1. Provide a forum to discuss and exchange experiences
2. Foster the development of joint projects
3. Act as a vehicle to express common issues towards European policies of science and of regions
4. Organise an annual Congress of European Science Cities

**The participants of the First European Congress of Science Cities request the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions as well as national and regional governments ...**

... to recognise the cities as important actors and partners of European and national science policies and to engage them in the development of innovation strategies.

... to support the cities by relevant programmes on all effected levels.

... to recognise that the policies for the development of science, creative and knowledge based industries are inseparable on a municipal and regional level.

... to enable an approach of the existing European policies of science, culture and economy to support the political understanding of the capacities of science and culture as elements of economic development.

... to appreciate that scientific institutions influence socio-demographic development and that cities need to be actively supportive in attracting and sustaining scientific institutions.

... to take the interests of Science Cities into account when planning and allocating regional funds.

... to analyse the results of the outstanding German competition „City of Science“ as well as the Russian programme to promote structural impulses on a European level and to make conclusions for a possible introduction of a European competition of Science Cities.

Magdeburg/Germany, 9th November 2006

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