



The Thematic Groups activities Introduction

Turiddo Pugliese
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One of the main activities of the project

The creation of the THEMATIC GROUPS is one of the main activities of the ARCHIMES project.

It answers the necessity to promote a VIRTUAL discussion about three priority themes for urban planning that are:

- CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT;
 - URBAN REGENERATION;
 - STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TOURISM
-

The expected outcome

TO PRODUCE COMMON
GUIDELINES FOR EACH
THEME.

Useful to:

- support the analysis of the areas;
 - suggest new approach problems;
 - compare implementation methodologies;
 - deliver best practices patterns;
 - define implementation tools.
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The 3 thematic groups will work on the 1st phase of the project starting from June 2006: "transfer of knowledge based on EU cities experience and definition of a common methodology".

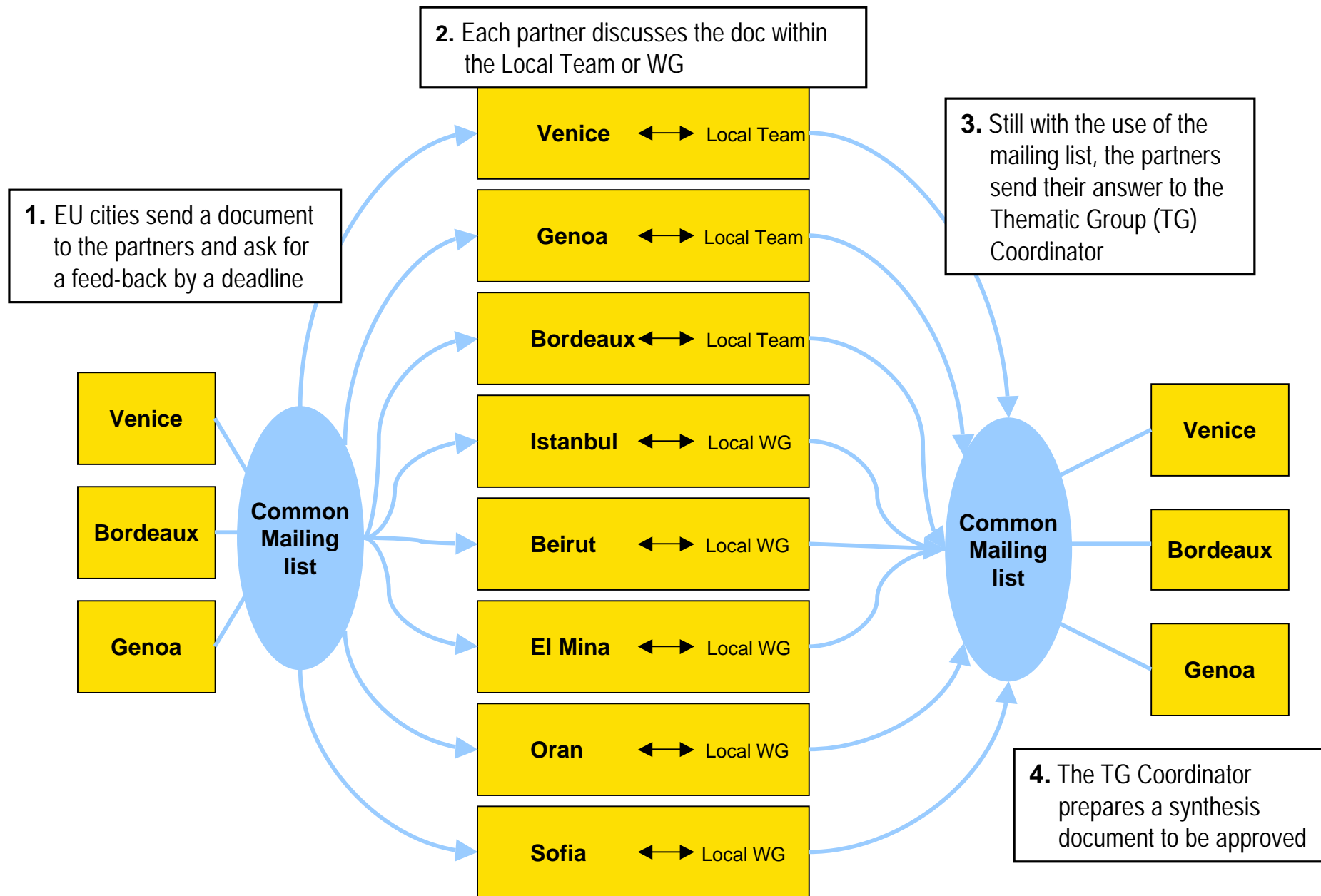
| year 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|---|---|---|---|---|------------|---|---|----|----|----|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Activity | semester 1 | | | | | | semester 2 | | | | | | Implementing body | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | |
| Kick-off meeting -Preparation activities | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | Istanbul |
| Local working group establishment | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | All cities |
| SWOT analysis and data collection plan | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | All cities |
| Second meeting | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | Sofia |
| Thematic groups activities: 1- cult. herit. & ec. dev. | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | Venice (coordination) |
| 2- urban regeneration | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | Bordeaux (coordination) |
| 3- strategic planning and tourism | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | Genoa (coordination) |
| Pilot actions (4) start up and development | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | All cities |
| Third meeting | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | El Mina |
| In itinere evaluation | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | external expert |
| Steering committee | ■ | | | | | ■ | | | | | | ■ | | All cities |

How to develop the 3 Thematic Groups

In Istanbul, we noted that:

- Ø these themes were very broad and linked between them
- Ø it was necessary to define them better
- Ø to do this, the discussion had to focus on 5/6 key issues for each theme, chosen by the partners

Archimedes – Thematic Groups Virtual Discussion



STEPS TO DEFINE THE KEY ISSUES LIST

The Thematic Group Coordinator from each EU city has sent to all other partners, through the common mailing list, a first document including:

- the state-of-the-art at European level of the theme
- a proposed list of key issues
- a questionnaire to be answered within a defined deadline

Every partner has discussed the document within its Local Team or Working Group.

Each partner has prepared its answer, possibly by making a synthesis in case the discussion happened within the Local Team or Working Group, and has sent it back to the Thematic Working Group Coordinator through the mailing list.

**TODAY, VENICE, BORDEAUX AND GENOA PRESENT THE SYNTHESIS OF THIS WORK E
PROPOSE A METHOD TO GO AHEAD**

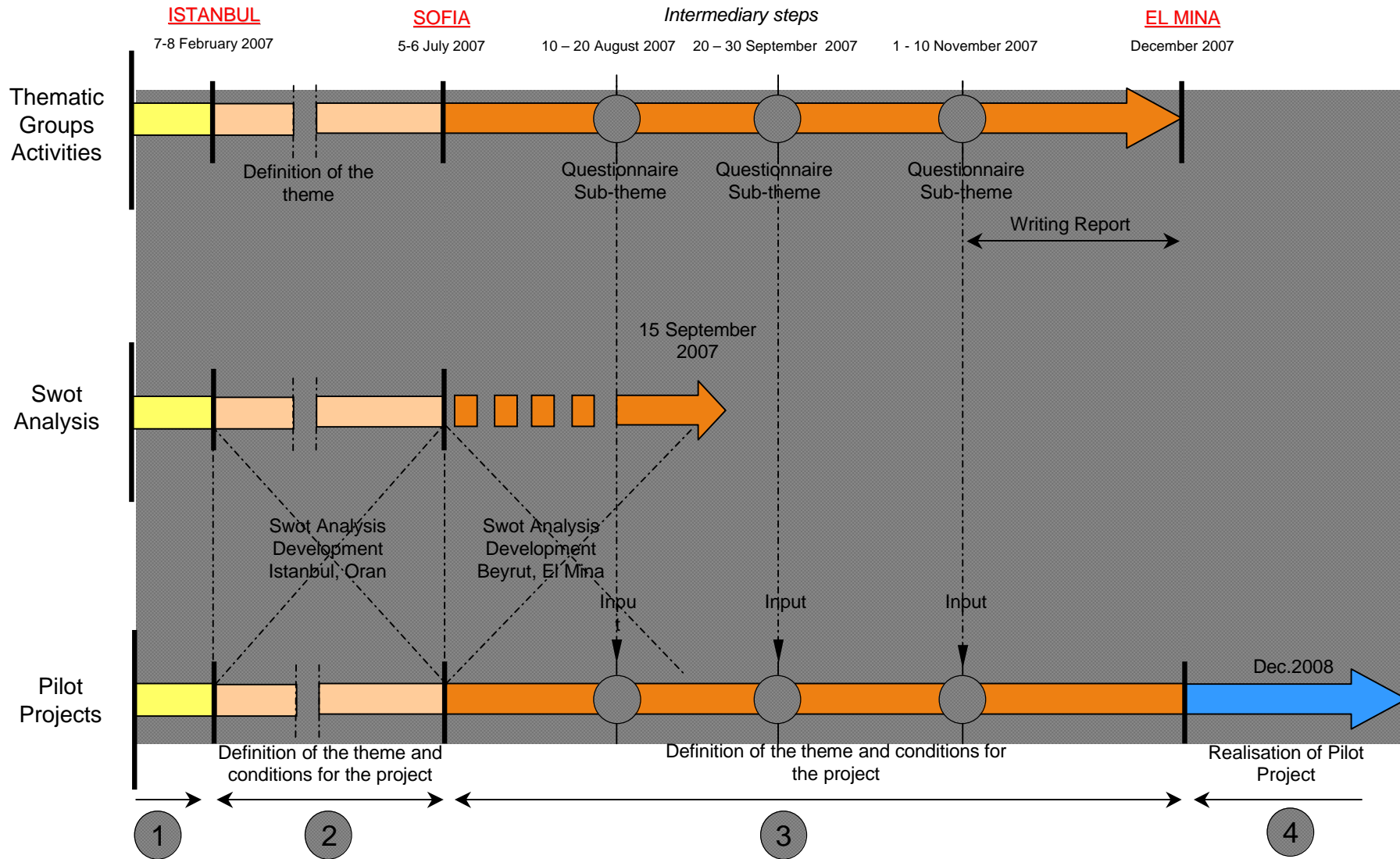
Results of the questionnaires (1[^] phase)

Not all Cities have answered to the questionnaires.

It is important to complete the inquiry by July, in order to allow the coordinators to draw the due conclusions.

ARCHIMEDES PROJECT

Development of activities plan



Thematic Groups Virtual Discussion - DISCUSSION OF THE KEY ISSUES

After the Sofia meeting (July 5-6) the discussion will continue.
The coordinators will propose new sub-themes, one at a time.

The procedure is always the same:

EU cities propose a document on a key issue with attached a questionnaire and give a deadline to the partners for their answers.

The partners discuss internally the documents and prepare their answers

The Thematic Group Coordinator will write a synthesis document on each key issue and at the end it will prepare the guidelines to be approved at the meeting in El Mina (December 2007)

It is important that, according to the agreed methodologic plan (reactions by ALL MEDA CITIES, with the use of specific but synthetic questionnaires), the speakers of the three Thematic Working Groups precise which will be the sub-themes which they intend to discuss with ALL local working groups, in strict connection with the pilot projects. Regarding time, may I remind you that it will be necessary to complete the reflexion at least one month before the following meeting, in order to report the outputs in a synthesis part of the Manual to be produced.

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The expected outcome

The study in depth of these issues to deliver innovative implementation methods is the objective that the MEDA towns want to pursue participating to the ARCHIMEDES project.

All of MEDA cities need a plan for urban regeneration and for the exploitation of their potentialities, in particular in terms of tourism and cultural heritage promotion, to improve citizens' quality of life and guarantee a sustainable economic development.

Each MEDA city has chosen a city area where to experiment the development of an urban regeneration feasibility study and implementation plan (pilot project).

MEDA cities will acquire a methodology to be transferred in other districts or cities, and the district involved will have a regeneration plan

The expected outcome

All the participants to the ARCHIMEDES project are expected to contribute to the 3 thematic groups.

In detail, the persons that should participate to the activities are:

- the local groups that the MEDA cities will establish;
- all the actors of the local system involved in the project;
- all the people able to enrich the discussion.

All the cities involved will contribute to the guidelines definition, bringing together different point of view: EU cities, MEDA cities, Candidate Countries cities, cities more focused on cultural heritage other more on Economic animation but with a common aim: urban regeneration and sustainable development.

Meda cities will establish local groups involving the main stakeholders in the pilot project development.
