

<p>The crucial role of small towns, and rural-urban cooperation</p>
<p>Name of Facilitator Phil Turner & Tihana Fabijanic – ECOVAST</p>
<p>Name of Rapporteur Ineke Folgerts</p>
<p>Vision of the theme Key elements, diversification, local offer of public/ private services, multifunctional solutions of housing, improving agricultural production and marketing, conservation of landscapes & nature, supporting cultural identity</p>
<p>Main issues Small towns have opportunities through tourism, local food, culture, etc. Relations between small towns and cities. The rural and urban region. Both are equally important.</p>
<p>Suggested actions / policy – and who should implement Trust in the power of small towns. There is no policy yet, but you should trust small towns: Promote what to do People are doing it themselves Bottom-up not top down</p>
<p>How should ERP work in the future in this theme? What is the role of the ERP partners? Be aware of the key elements for sustainable small towns – and share them</p>
<p>Messages to the Venhorst Declaration Allow the local people self-government, they know their town and opportunities. Make policy bottom-up and not top-down</p>
<p>Ideas and case-study examples relating to the theme Presentations on Croatia and ECOVAST initiative (see PowerPoint) EESC – nat/6qs EU Year of culture and Heritage Smart Villages</p>