



## Big city, Small neighbourhoods, One vision!

The Resident University 2006 in Birmingham was a big success! Thanks to the City of Birmingham, the Birmingham University, all excursion hosts, Residents of Birmingham and of course all of you who traveled from all over Europe to Birmingham to join us. We couldn't have done this without you all!

Please read our review on the event and refresh your memory with the enclosed key messages of the workshops that were held on Friday September 15th.

These are also on the Website as well as a lot of Photo's. Look under Resident University 2006, and look for Photo's Resident University. Simply click the photo to enlarge or to download.



Just a few comments on the Resident University:

*"Can I just congratulate you all on an outstanding conference in Birmingham. Everything was organised so well and the diversity of the delegates was fascinating! Two parents from our school and a local active community worker came via funding I applied for from B:cen, they all had a wonderful time, met some really interesting people and made new friends."*



*"Our attendance at the Birmingham Conference provided us with some very useful and interesting people to keep in touch with, opened up some potentially fruitful lines of contact of action for campaigning, encouraged and enthused us to carry on our work in the realisation that we are not alone."*

*"We had really positive feedback from all the projects that were visited here they really enjoyed hosting people from all across Europe. Well done to you all for doing such a wonderful job"*

## Residents make the city





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We are very anxious to know your view on the Resident University. Mail us your comments on the event at [info@r4r.nl](mailto:info@r4r.nl)

Or mail us if you need help to establish contact with other European Resident Groups.



### Next events:

#### November 2006

This November our Film made by Nick Booth: 'Resident Experts' will have its premiere at The Hague. This film shows 3 active and involved Citizens in Antwerp, Birmingham and Rotterdam and gives an insight in what they do for their community, why they do this and what keeps them going.

#### April 2007

Our next international workshop will be held in Antwerp: 19-21 April 2007.

We will keep you informed meanwhile check the website for updated information.

### *Inspiration from old and new friends at the Resident University 2006*

For three days, Birmingham was the capital city of European citizens. Over 325 active residents from 6 different countries attended the Resident University at the University of Birmingham. People could meet up and exchange experiences at the excursions and workshops or at the market-square where most resident groups presented their materials. Birmingham was a warm and inspiring setting for meeting up with old and new friends from all over Europe.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham opened the University **on Wednesday** evening at the Brasshouse Pub. It was a great night to get into the right atmosphere.



**On Thursday**, the university was opened by chair of the day Matt Lane with an discussion about the theme 'Big City, Small Neighbourhoods, One Vision! Naseem Akthar (Balsall Heath forum) opened the discussion and residents from different places took a seat in the living room on stage to talk about their neighbourhoods and vision. The history professor and great performer Carl Chinn paved the way for an interesting look at Birmingham. The pouring rain couldn't stop people for going to the excursions in different parts of Birmingham. But happily the rain transformed into a pale sun after a few hours. At the end of the afternoon, when

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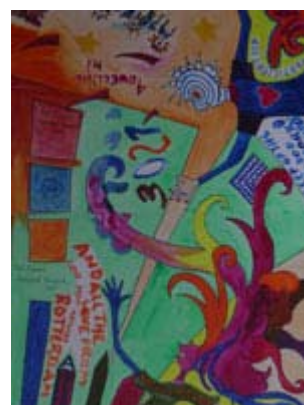
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people came back, they could talk about (and paint!) the impressions of the day.



**On Friday** the event was hosted by Masood Yasin, a resident of Birmingham, and started with an interesting speech of Joe Montgomery, the head of the National Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (RNU) in England. This was an perfect introduction for the workshops that were being held afterwards. Take a look at the button 'key messages workshops' to get an understanding of what was being said on that sunny Friday afternoon.

After a look into the future, where Douwe Wielenga presented the plans of R4R for the next months, Councillor Jim Whorwood officially closed The Resident University, but not before the paintings were being offered to representatives of the different countries present: Belgium, Germany, Lithuania, Bulgaria, The Netherlands and the UK. The Dutch painting was given to Jannie Lisset and will be presented at the European Residents Centre in The Hague.



We would like to thank the City Council of Birmingham, the University of Birmingham and of course the residents of Birmingham for giving us the opportunity to organise such a great event.

See you in Antwerp on 19-21 april 2007!

The R4R-team.



EUROPEAN COMMUNITY  
European Regional Development Fund



## Residents make the city





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## Key messages workshops

### Youth and Education

It takes a whole neighbourhood to raise a child.

1. Formative experience of children: taught or gained.
2. Whole family and community is responsible for teaching. Not just role of teachers, social workers etc.
3. Skill set to engage with society: formal (if lacking: how to tackle regeneration) and informal.

### Ethnic Diversity and Neighbourhoods

1. Don't lose sight of the common issues.
2. Role of facilitators for new migrants is very important: who to contact? What are the shortcuts through the system? What are the 'rules' of the neighbourhood?
3. People's housing choices are complicated and needs can get lost at a level of service provision (travel, proximity to places of worship, amenities etc.). It is hard for individuals to be the pioneers: are there imaginative solutions for this? This is an important issue for tackling ethnic segregation.

### Safe and Clean Neighbourhoods

1. Problems are the same across all the countries, but there are also differences.  
You need to establish what the real problems are:  
Anti-social behaviour  
Gangs  
Individual responsibility  
Problems of cars and traffic, Etc.
2. The responsibilities will have to be identified: whose is responsible for what?
3. Try to change behaviour through education
4. Enforce accountability of service providers.
5. Make landlords more responsible

### Resident Led Neighbourhood Management

1. Be realistic about what you can do: start small work towards larger goals.

2. Check who controls the resources? Community control of budget is different than local government controlled.
3. Neighbourhood diversity = neighbourhood health.
4. Education is keyword.  
- Residents need skills, such as public speaking, to communicate needs,  
- Service providers need training in how to work with residents.

### Creativity and tactics

1. Convince officials and 'funders' that they want to give you money for your ideas. Use networks, petitions, contacts, door-to-door and NEVER GIVE UP!
2. Play Politics. Find out what is 'hot' in policy, then translate this into fitting your aim.

### Hard to reach

1. No-one is hard to reach if you use the right approach. Nobody has to fall into the 'hard-to-reach' group if there is the will and communication to involve people.
2. Women are the key to successful communication.
3. Negativity is just a way of thinking: we need more positive messages.

### Voice, representation and neighbourhood

1. Engage with young people
2. Persistence
3. Build alliances

### Partnerships between local government and resident led Neighbourhood Management

1. Take a risk: let everyone win and dare to get it wrong
2. Devolve or cooperate: service specific local decisions compromised by central government.
3. There must be a clarity of purpose, maybe joint training of local officers and residents?

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