The two days meeting was organised in two different strands:

**Friday, 17 June 2005** was filled with four paper presentations on research projects in WG 2 and with a Panel discussion.

Presented Papers included:

Federico Steinberg on ‘Competitiveness and territorial cohesion in the Spanish provinces: An urban approach.’

Stefano Panebianco on "Are entrepreneurial cities more successful? Empirical evidence from 50 German cities."

Harri Andersson on “Conflicts of competitiveness and social cohesion in the City of Salo.”

George Kandylis on “Immigration and the competitiveness-cohesion equilibrium in Athens.”

The discussion and reflections on the papers surely helps authors to further refine their arguments. It also helped thinking about comparative elements between papers and case studies. Not the least, participants still working on their case study have received an input regarding theoretical and methodological aspects.

The Panel discussion was composed of three external speakers plus the participants of COST A 26. Also, further external visitors participated in the discussion.

Mr. Beyer presented the working of the economic development unit in Dortmund, a privatised branch of the previous public economic development department of the City Council. Mr. Beyer is responsible for the labour market unit. He spoke about a 'regional agency' integrating several traditional tasks to promote structural change.

Mr. Hülsmann presented the ‘dortmund project’, a cluster and network approach to boost the local economy especially through innovative new industries. Part of this project is also the Phoenix Development, specifically targeting the conversion of a major steel production site.

Mr. Tata works at the School of Planning and does research into the field of cluster policies. His was to provide further orientations and position the single activities.
Saturday, 18 June 2005 opened with a steering committee meeting and continued with meetings for both working groups and additional presentations.

The meeting of the steering committee opened the days’ program. Since Amsterdam, a number of organisational matters occurred which needed to be urgently discussed face to face. HTA, MS, AH, WS, PA and TM participated in this meeting. The main decisions are:

1) Training schools have to be paid out of ‘our’ budget, i.e. if we will arrange at training school we need to cancel one meeting. David Groenbaek informs us that this is impossible to finance via transferring of budget from one year to another.

2) The budget is rather limited with more than twenty people in wg2 and 12 In WG2. We hope for some extra funding by the end of the summer, but expects to have 18,000 € which allow us to have a meeting this year (although with a more restrictive access to reimbursements); the planning for Athens continues. David G does not believe there will be extra money for us.

3) HTA has checked if we need an extra MC-meeting; this is not the case.

4) The Turkish delegate, Prof. Eraydin kindly offered to host the action in Ankara as an alternative to Athens for November. However, this will not be possible due to national holidays at the 4-5th of November. So we have to ask Thomas Maloutas to check if he can organize the meeting. However, we do not need an extra MC-meeting.

5) There is no middle evaluation of the action.

6) HTA talked to Federico Steinberg about a meeting in Spain; he will prefer to make it in Madrid and at the best later than February (it can be very cold). Maybe in april to give spring a chance?

WG1 – discussed a paper presented by Alan Harding on ‘City-regions: reconciling competitiveness and cohesion?” (See notes towards end of document by WS)

WG2 – discussed papers presented by

Walter Schenkel on ‘Transport Policy in Zurich’;

Jens Klessmann on ‘Strategic Economic Development: Possible Links between Cluster Policy and Local Economy.’, reporting from his STSM to Manchester;

John Barstad on the Norwegian research contribution to COST A 26, and

Metka Sitar on ‘International competitiveness and cooperation of Slovene cities in middle-European context– possibilities and trends.’

WG2 will now use the rich material to develop a first publication. Peter Ache will develop a book proposal and come forward with further ideas on bridging papers.
In the afternoon, an excursion was organised by the local team to several places representing the overall topic of the workshop:

- The new competitive parts of the cities economy were seen with the example of the technology park at the university of Dortmund. Existing since 1984, the TP is one of the more successful examples in Germany, with about 10,000 employees in HT branches.
- The Phoenix Development is the largest conversion project in Dortmund at the moment. A former steel factory ground has almost entirely been cleared out and in part already developed to a location for HT industries in the field of MST. Another site of the same development shall be used to develop high quality housing – at the shore of a new artificial lake.
- The Clarenberg social housing estate in Hoerde was the final destination. This estate was purpose built for the Phoenix steel plant, suffering today from unemployment, ethnical segregation and other problems. The strategies of the housing association how to cope with this have been addressed.

The excursion provided an extra stimulus to the debate about competitive cities and social cohesion – and addressed as well the different forms of government, which are locally invented to design new futures and overcome conflict.

Overall, the Dortmund workshop was quite successful. Since the start of the action, definite progress has been made, as can be seen from the number of quality papers, which have been presented.

HTA, PA, (WS) – June 2005
COST A26 WG 1
Minutes, Dortmund 18 June, 2005

Participants:
Alan Harding, Yuri Kazepov, Frank Eckardt, Hildegard Treichl, Alan Scott, Nico van der Heiden, Willem Salet. And two new members: Ayda Eraydin, Paul Mitchell-Banks,

Absent:

1. Opening
Willem Salet welcomes the new working group members Ayda Eraydin (Professor of urban and regional planning, Ankara, Turkey) and Dr. Paul Mitchell- Banks (senior researcher at Møreforsking Volda, Norway).

2. Adoption of Agenda
No objections

3. Minutes of Amsterdam
Deadlines of European research are discussed. No one of our group is involved in the first round of current 6FP round regarding Citizens and Governance. We should be alert on next round and attempt to associate with new initiatives.

4. News from small MC meeting
COST A26 runs into financial problems because of enrolment of too many experts. For this reason, most probably one of next meetings has to be cancelled. From now on, no new members can be accepted and a limit must be kept for each country. At next 3-4 November 2005 meeting in Athens (or Ankara) the full MC meeting will decide on the definitive schedule of COST A26 meetings.

5. Presentation by Alan Harding + plenary debate
For the backgrounds to this presentation see the powerpoints and the article on the website (part WG1). The session brought a number of themes to the foreground that will be elaborated in a book that is to be produced by the working group in the next period of two years (to be edited by Alan Harding and Ian Gordon). Alan and Ian will prepare a document – far for next meeting – that will enable the speakers on the Athens meeting to reflect more in detail on the structure of the book under preparation. In general terms, the joint research trajectory will focus on the process of urban transformation and its implications for strategic collective action in a context of multi-level governance. The project regards:
- The lifting up the scales of urbanisation from the territorial cities and their administrative boundaries to new patterns of city- regional configuration (including very different new constellations at the levels of urban agglomeration, urban conurbation and emergent metropolitan constellation);
- taking into consideration the current tendencies of economic and social rescaling and the implicated rescaling of intergovernmental relationships;
- addressing the issues of reciprocal adjusting the scopes of social and economic action (increasingly brought forward in international networks) on the one hand and the process of territorial reorganisation of new city regions on the other hand;
- requiring new trans-scalar and trans-sector strategies of action;
- organising collective action in a context of fragmentation.

Within this general framework different sorts of themes might be elaborated. In the meeting such themes were raised as:
- Strategic formation of new urban configuration: by formal organisation, by networking or by deliberate imagination (the imagined city)?
- The rescaling of intergovernmental relationships (crucial issues of vertical policy alignment) and the impact of public policies on the process of spatial reconfiguration (for instance the ‘blind’ public expenditures on the demands of space);
- how to stimulate ‘public entrepreneurism’ and ‘public leadership’ in the no ones world of city regional collective action?
- How to deal with aspects of ‘ideology’, ‘power’, ‘conflict’, and ‘legitimacy’ of collective action formation at city regional levels of scale?
- How to stimulate ‘integrative innovation’ in city regions instead of reproducing the existing relationships.

These are still rather global indications. Alan Harding and Ian Gordon will prepare more precise statements before next meeting in Athens.

6. How to proceed?

It is concluded that the working group will focus on two products.

1. The first product is the book publication following the Amsterdam conference, last February. Willem Salet and John Jorgensen will edit the volume *Synergy in Urban Networks*. Presentations at the conference will be elaborated into bookchapters. The book consists of:
   - **Part 1:** Introductions by both editors and the president of Randstad Region (+ chapter by Alan Harding?).
   - **Part 2:** The Case of Region Randstad (by Dutch researchers and professional planners)
   - **Part 3:** Regional Governance in European regions (chapters by Ian Gordon, Frank Eckardt and Yuri Kazepov + potential other WG1 members (Alan Scott?)
   - **Part 4:** Conclusion by the editors.

Members of Working Group 1 still might participate in the volume. A letter will be sent to the members before the holidays regarding contents, conditions and programming of the book. The ultimate deadline of contributions (in English) is set on November 30, 2005. Negotiation with Sdu Uitgevers was successful (print of 2000 full colour copies, sale price 39 Euro). Sponsoring by ESF (first 100 copies), Habiforum (200 copies) and Univ. of Amsterdam (editing and lay out) is feasible. Final publication is aimed at February/ March 2006.
2. The second WG1 book will be coordinated by Alan Harding and Ian Gordon. The substantive theme of this project is considered in the previous section 5. The next meetings of the working group will focus on the preparation of this joint research culminating in the Manchester meeting of COST in the spring of 2007. Alan Harding (in cooperation with Ian Gordon) will prepare an outline for the book and its aimed readership/audience for next COST meeting in November 2005. The WG1 members that intend to give a presentation at next meeting, are invited to consider the above mentioned themes as a background to their presentation and to consult Alan or Ian if more indications are needed. Listed for next presentations are Juan Medreano, Arto Haveri, Nico van der Heiden, Ayda Eraydin. The precise agenda for next meeting (with 3 or 4 individual presentations) will be sent to in due time.

3. In addition to the WG proceedings, a final overall COST A26 publication might be considered by Hans Thor Anderson and John Jorgensen, culminating in the final conference of COST A26, Copenhagen November 2007. Preparations for this final aim are not yet made.

AOB
Paul Mitchell-Banks mentions two conferences in Norway later this year, that will be announced on the web.