

URBAN-NET

Deliverable 2.3

“Initial review and comparison of national urban research programmes”

Prepared by The Nicis Institute (Leaders of Work Package 2)
December 2007

Project Title: Urban ERA-NET – Coordination of the funding of Urban Research in Europe
Instrument: ERA-NET (Coordination Action)
Contract no: 031342

Start date: 01 August 2006
Duration: 4 years

Dissemination Level		
PU	Public dissemination level	x
PP	Dissemination restricted to programme participants (including EC)	
RE	Dissemination restricted to groups specified by the consortium (including EC)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the Consortium	



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Summary of contents

This report describes the analysis of the national research programmes on urban sustainability that can be found in the URBAN-NET database so far.

In Chapter 4, the national (and regional) research programmes are placed within a table, in which the most relevant characteristics of each programme can be found. Furthermore, the report gives an overview of the current trends in research programmes per country by using Country Profiles (Chapter 5). The country profiles give an overview of the actors, main programmes and topics in urban research of each EU country and Turkey.

Chapter 6 then introduces the research programmes with a short summary for each programme included in the project database. Chapter 7 includes a statistical comparison of the research programmes. The outcomes of this part of the analysis are formulated statistically; using percentages, tables and graphs. From this the project is able to identify common trends and differences between the research programmes.

Chapter 8 focuses on good practices from the programmes in the database. Good practices in organisational structure, financial participation, methodology, evaluation, dissemination and impact of research programmes are identified and explained within this chapter.

Chapter 9 compares and contrasts the “list of future urban trends and challenges” (identified by TÜV) with the research programmes from the URBAN-NET database.

The report begins with three introductory chapters providing an introduction into the URBAN-NET project, an introduction into Work Package 2 and a short overview of the methodology used for this report.



Table of contents

CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION INTO URBAN-NET..... 7

CHAPTER 2 - WORK PACKAGE 2 8

CHAPTER 3 - METHODOLOGY..... 9

 3.1 PREPARATION 9

 3.2 TEMPLATE FOR THE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES IN THE DATABASE10

 3.3 QUALITY CHECK PROCEDURE.....11

 3.4 RESEARCH PROGRAMMES OR PROJECTS?.....11

 3.5 THE DATABASE12

CHAPTER 4 - OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES IN THE DATABASE13

CHAPTER 5 - COUNTRY PROFILES.....16

 5.1 COUNTRY PROFILE AUSTRIA.....16

Overview of actors16

Main Research Programmes16

Topics in urban research17

 5.2 COUNTRY PROFILE BELGIUM18

Overview of actors.....18

Main Research Programmes18

Topics in urban research18

 5.3 COUNTRY PROFILE BULGARIA.....19

Overview of actors.....19

Main Research Programmes19

Topics in urban research19

 5.4 COUNTRY PROFILE CYPRUS20

Overview of actors.....20

Main research programmes.....20

Topics.....20

 5.5 COUNTRY PROFILE CZECH REPUBLIC.....21

Overview of actors.....21

Main research programmes.....21

Topics in urban research21

 5.6 COUNTRY PROFILE DENMARK.....22

Overview of actors.....22

Main programmes.....22

Topics in urban research22

 5.7 COUNTRY PROFILE ESTONIA.....23

Overview of Estonian actors23

Main research programmes.....23

Topics in urban research23

 5.8 COUNTRY PROFILE FINLAND24

Overview of Finnish actors.....24

Main research programme.....24

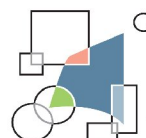
Topics in urban research24

 5.9 COUNTRY PROFILE FRANCE.....25

Overview of actors.....25



<i>Main research programmes</i>	25
<i>Topics in urban research</i>	26
5.10 COUNTRY PROFILE GERMANY	27
<i>Overview of actors</i>	27
<i>Main research programmes</i>	27
<i>Topics</i>	28
5.11 COUNTRY PROFILE GREECE	29
<i>Overview of actors</i>	29
<i>Main research programmes</i>	29
<i>Topics in urban research</i>	29
5.12 COUNTRY PROFILE HUNGARY	30
<i>Overview of actors</i>	30
<i>Main research programmes</i>	30
<i>Topics</i>	30
5.13 COUNTRY PROFILE IRELAND	31
<i>Overview of Actors</i>	31
<i>Main research programmes</i>	31
<i>Topics in urban research</i>	31
5.14 COUNTRY PROFILE ITALY	33
<i>Overview of actors</i>	33
<i>Main research programmes</i>	33
<i>Research topics</i>	33
5.15 COUNTRY PROFILE LATVIA	34
<i>Overview of actors</i>	34
<i>Main research programmes</i>	34
<i>Topics in urban research</i>	34
5.16 COUNTRY PROFILE LITHUANIA	35
<i>Overview of actors</i>	35
<i>Main programmes</i>	35
<i>Topics in urban research</i>	35
5.17 COUNTRY PROFILE LUXEMBOURG	36
<i>Overview of actors</i>	36
<i>Main research programmes</i>	36
<i>Research topics</i>	36
5.18 COUNTRY PROFILE MALTA	37
<i>Main actors</i>	37
<i>Main research programmes</i>	37
<i>Research topics</i>	37
5.19 COUNTRY PROFILE THE NETHERLANDS	38
<i>Overview of actors</i>	38
<i>Main research programmes</i>	38
<i>Topics</i>	39
5.20 COUNTRY PROFILE POLAND	40
<i>Overview of actors</i>	40
<i>Main programmes</i>	40
<i>Research topics</i>	40
5.21 COUNTRY PROFILE PORTUGAL	41
<i>Overview of actors</i>	41
<i>Main programmes</i>	41



<i>Topics in urban research</i>	42
5.22 COUNTRY PROFILE ROMANIA	43
<i>Overview of actors</i>	43
<i>Main Research Programmes</i>	43
<i>Topics in urban research</i>	43
5.23 COUNTRY PROFILE SLOVAKIA	44
<i>Overview of actors</i>	44
<i>Main research programmes</i>	44
<i>Topics</i>	44
5.24 COUNTRY PROFILE SLOVENIA	45
<i>Overview of actors</i>	45
<i>Main Programmes</i>	45
<i>Topics</i>	45
5.25 COUNTRY PROFILE SPAIN	46
<i>Overview of actors</i>	46
<i>Main programmes</i>	46
<i>Topics in urban research</i>	47
5.26 COUNTRY PROFILE SWEDEN	48
<i>Overview of actors</i>	48
<i>Main programmes</i>	48
<i>Topics in urban research</i>	49
5.27 COUNTRY PROFILE TURKEY	50
<i>Overview of actors</i>	50
<i>Topics in urban research</i>	50
5.28 COUNTRY PROFILE UNITED KINGDOM	52
<i>Overview of actors</i>	52
<i>Main programmes</i>	52
<i>Research topics</i>	53
CHAPTER 6 - SHORT SUMMARIES OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES IN THE DATABASE	54
CHAPTER 7 - COMPARING THE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES IN THE DATABASE	64
7.1 MAIN THEMATIC AREAS	64
7.2 SPECTRUM OF ACTORS	66
7.3 ORGANISATION	67
.....	69
7.4 FINANCE	69
7.5 COMMISSIONING AND ASSESSING RESEARCH PROJECTS	71
7.6 DISSEMINATION	72
7.7 IMPACT	74
CHAPTER 8 - GOOD PRACTICES OF RESEARCH PROGRAMMES	75
8.1 THEMATIC AREA	75
8.2 ACTORS	76
8.3 ORGANISATION	76
8.4 COMMISSIONING AND ASSESSING PROJECTS	77
8.5 DISSEMINATION	78
8.6 IMPACT	78



CHAPTER 9 - FUTURE RESEARCH AND GAPS IN CURRENT RESEARCH PROGRAMMES.....80

A) DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR CITIES80

B) URBAN FUTURES AND ADAPTING CITIES TO GLOBALISATION81

C) SHRINKING CITIES82

D) SOCIAL STABILITY AND PHYSICAL UPGRADING IN DEPRIVED NEIGHBOURHOODS82

E) MIGRATION AS A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY82

F) CREATING AND ENSURING HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC SPACES82

G) CREATING AND ENSURING URBAN TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY83

H) URBAN SPRAWL, COMPACT CITY AND RE-USE OF DERELICT LAND.....83

I) URBAN DESIGN, ENLARGEMENT, RENEWAL AND RESTRUCTURING84

J) CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR CITIES.....84

K) ENERGY EFFICIENT CITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT84

L) STRENGTHENING CITIES AS COMMERCIAL LOCATIONS WITH A FOCUS ON CENTRALISED SUPPLY AREAS85

M) GIVING CITIES A FACE – IDENTITY AND CULTURE OF CITIES85

N) PRESERVATION OF OLD CITY AND CITY TOURISM AS AN ECONOMIC FACTOR.....85

O) INTEGRATED URBAN MANAGEMENT THROUGH MULTI-SECTOR AND MULTI-ACTOR GOVERNANCE86

ANNEX I87

ANNEX II89

Chapter 1 – Introduction into URBAN-NET

Some 80% of the European Union's population lives in urban areas, where the effects of many environmental, social and economic problems are felt most strongly. The high level of urbanisation within Europe means that there is a strong urban dimension to many of the European Community's environmental policies. Consequently, the urban environment is increasingly discussed as a subject in its own right.

Sustainable urban development requires an integrated approach, and this is where urban research is relevant: in simultaneously tackling related issues such as urban management and governance, integrated spatial planning, economic wellbeing and competitiveness, social inclusion, and environmental stewardship.

URBAN-NET has the aim to structure and coordinate this type of research on urban sustainability in Europe. It does so by identifying and addressing transnational requirements for research and sharing of good practice, in order to support the implementation of the European Research Area (ERA) in the urban research field, as well as other European legislation, policy and strategies relating to sustainable urban development. URBAN-NET is focused on coordinating the funding of research into sustainable urban development (also referred to as urban sustainability).

There are 16 Partners involved in URBAN-NET. The partners are programme owners and programme managers from Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom as well as one world-wide organisation (UN-HABITAT). A list of all URBAN-NET partner organisations and a short summary of their activities can be found in Annex I.

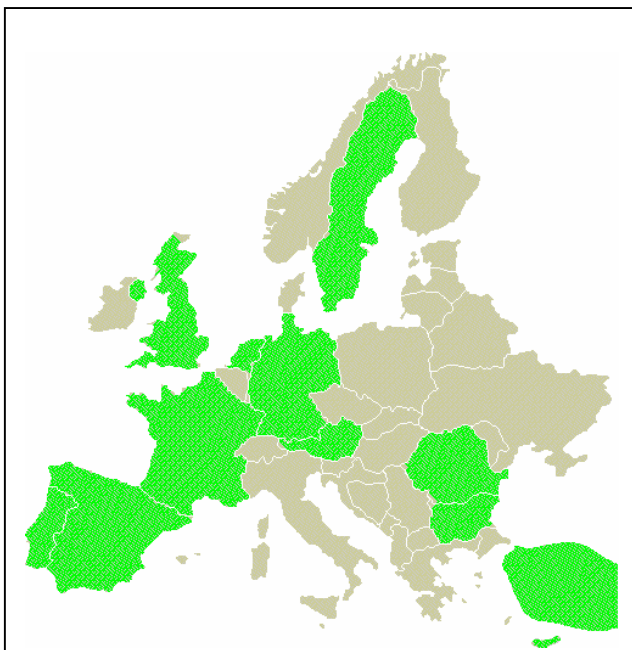


Figure 1: Countries represented in URBAN-NET



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Chapter 2 - Work Package 2

The activities of URBAN-NET have been divided into five Work Packages. Work Package 2 (WP2) is dedicated to the exchange of information and good practice between the project partners. This process is supported by the appointment of regional coordinators from among the URBAN-NET partners to coordinate the mapping of research activities and identify examples of good practice in their home country and surrounding countries.¹

WP2 is a critical driver of URBAN-NET. Access to up-to-date information on past and ongoing urban research in European countries represents an important pre-condition for effective collaboration and a key input for the identification of strategic themes for cooperation. Accordingly, this work package has an important function in disseminating knowledge between the URBAN-NET Consortium and other stakeholders, directly contributing to collaboration with all key stakeholders.

The Nicis Institute (formerly “KCGS”) and SenterNovem together coordinate WP2. The tasks within WP2 are designed to explore and define the crucial information that needs to be exchanged and to summarise the key indicators that will allow comparisons between the research programmes on urban sustainability in Europe.

Within WP2, the URBAN-NET project is also creating a database of recent and current research programme information comprising topics within the scope of urban sustainability. WP2 objectively compares and contrasts the research programmes within this database, to establish where similarities and differences in content exist and where gaps in research occur. Subsequently, a more subjective analysis of national programmes is undertaken to establish criteria for success (e.g. examining the quality of programme outcomes; existence of mechanisms to deal with integration and multidisciplinary and flexibility to adapt to future challenges in urban sustainability). This report provides the reader with an overview of the results of this process.

¹ The regional coordinators are the following: SenterNovem for The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Norway; TÜV and MTETM for Germany, France, UK, Ireland, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, and Switzerland; IPA and ASDE for Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Croatia; MEDAD and RPF for Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, Turkey, Italy, Malta, and Greece.



Chapter 3 - Methodology

3.1 Preparation

To be able to compare and identify national or regional research programmes, the URBAN-NET partners agreed on;

1. The scope of urban sustainability;
2. The method of validating and evaluating research programmes.

During Network Meeting1, the URBAN-NET partners agreed that three clusters of definitions of urban sustainability and nine cross-cutting dimensions of urban sustainability together form the basis for the scope of urban sustainability in URBAN-NET.

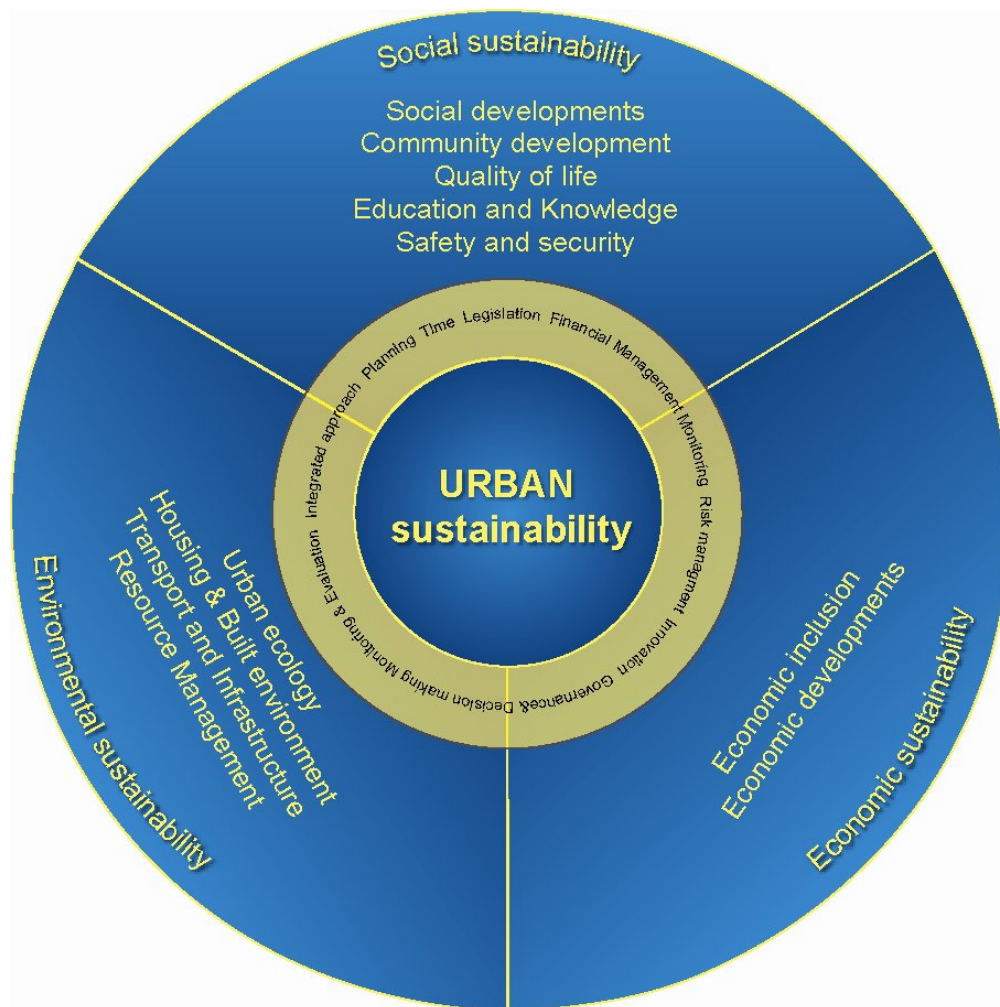


Figure 2: The conceptual relationship and interactions between the clusters and dimensions of urban sustainability



WP2 has the task to set up knowledge validation procedures to rate documents on practical usability and quality to users. To be able to create a common basis of comparison for the data and information from the individual URBAN-NET partners, it is necessary to ensure a uniform and systematically structured survey of data. It is also important to evaluate the completeness of the information and data submitted by partners.

Both a template and a quality check procedure were designed and agreed upon by all partners to ensure this. The template and quality check procedure are described shortly below.

3.2 *Template for the research programmes in the database*

The final agreed template comprises the following questions:

1. Number of parties involved in setting up the research programme
2. Number of projects/researches that have been funded by the programme
3. Number of articles published
4. Number of research applications received after an open call for research
5. Number of themes for research
6. What was the geographical level of the research programme?
7. What were the societal issues addressed by the programme?
8. What were the theoretical issues for addressed by the programme?
9. Which parties were involved in the establishment of the research programme?
10. Which and how many research personnel was involved in the programme?
11. What resources were used to finance the programme?
12. What was the total budget of the programme in euros?
13. What was the organisational structure of the programme?
14. Who decided the focus area(s) of the programme?
15. Was identifying gaps in former research part of the identification of the framework of the programme?
16. Was it possible to alternate the programme's focus area(s) throughout the duration of the programme? If so, which parties were able to decide?
17. How were research projects within the programme commissioned?
18. What type of assessment procedure for the research applications was conducted?
19. Which criteria were used for granting research applications?
20. Which criteria were used to evaluate the programme throughout the duration of the programme?
21. Which criteria were used to evaluate the finalized programme?
22. How many applications/proposals were received?
23. How many applications/proposals were granted by the programme?
24. How many research projects were conducted in the programme?
25. At which level was the dissemination of the programme outcomes organised?
26. What was the target group of the dissemination of the research results?
27. What were the main conclusions of the evaluation of the programme?
28. For which groups were the outcomes valuable?
29. What is the name of the organisation that set up the programme? How can this organisation be classified?



3.3 Quality Check Procedure

The quality check procedure was organised as follows:

1. The URBAN-NET partner described a research programme in the template.
2. One of the regional coordinators performed a quality check. This was done following some guidelines:
 - a) Is the programme relevant for the URBAN-NET database?
 - b) Is the template completely filled out?
 - c) Is the language used correct and clear?
3. One of the URBAN-NET partners from another regional group performed a second quality check.
4. The URBAN-NET partner responsible for the research was given the opportunity to respond to the outcome of the internal quality check procedure to avoid misunderstandings.
5. The document was published in the database after both reviewers and the URBAN-NET partner responsible agreed.
6. If both peer reviewers did not have the same opinion on the document, a third party will performed a quality check. This third party was the Nicis Institute.
7. If there was still no consensus between the reviewers, a meeting or conference call was held to discuss the document.
8. This procedure was coordinated by the Nicis Institute, leader of WP2.

3.4 Research programmes or projects?

Early in the process of collecting information for the database, several partners found that in many countries in the EU, urban research is not managed in 'research programmes' as defined by the European Commission:

"Research programmes carried out at national or regional level" should be understood as entire research programmes, or parts of such programmes, or similar initiatives. Such programmes should have all of the following characteristics:

1. *be strategically planned, i.e. be composed of number of research projects focused on a defined subject area or set of problems, that are scheduled to run for a set period of time and that have a coordinated management,*
2. *be carried out at national or regional level, and*
3. *be financed or managed directly by national or regional public bodies, or by structures (e.g. agencies) closely related to or mandated by public authorities.*²

However, it is the aim of URBAN-NET to analyse all countries from the European Union plus Turkey. Therefore, it was decided that if there are no identifiable programmes in a certain country, it would then be useful to have an indication of the urban research landscape for this

² Quoted from: "ERA-NET actions - Provisions for the preparations of ERA-Net actions and their practical implementation."
Version: 21 Dec 2006



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



country in a short paper (maximum 1 page) which can be included in the report instead. Partners were requested to answer the following questions concerning countries without research programmes:

1. Why are there no research programmes on urban issues in country X (e.g. political situation or research structures)?
2. Is urban research considered an important topic in country X?
3. Is urban research carried out in other ways (not in a programme structure but e.g. only in research projects)?
4. If so, what are the important topics of this research?
5. Who are the main funders of urban research in country X?
6. Could you name some of the research projects on urban issues carried out in country X?
7. Is it possible to roughly indicate the thematic scope, budget and human resources of these projects?

3.5 The database

In August 2007, the URBAN-NET database consisted of 43 completed descriptions of national research programmes on urban sustainability issues. The current analysis is based on these 43 research programmes. The countries represented in the database, and thus in this report, are the following:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- France
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Romania
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

The URBAN-NET database is a work-in-progress. It is envisaged that the URBAN-NET database will consist of more research programmes (also from countries currently not represented in this report) in January 2008, when the second analysis will be conducted. This second analysis will be structured in the same way as the current report. It will be delivered as Deliverable 2.5, which is the Final Review and Comparison of national research programmes.



Chapter 4 - Overview of the research programmes in the database

	<i>Name research programme</i>	<i>Main Organisation(s)</i>	<i>Thematic area</i>	<i>* Other Actors involved</i>	<i>Research personnel</i>	<i>* Resources</i>	<i>Commission research</i>	<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>* Dissemination methods</i>
AT	proVISION	Ministry of Science and Research	Social sustainability	B,C,D,E,F,G	unknown	B,F	Both	no	A,B,C,D,E
BE	ASRO	University of Leuven	Urban sustainability	B,D,E,F,G,H	unknown	A,B,C	Both	no	B,C
BE	Standing Conference on Territorial Development	Wallon Region of Belgium	Environmental sustainability	B,D	44 fte ³	G	Direct commissioning	yes	A,B,C,D,E
BG	Dynamic Cities Atlases	ASDE; Ecoregions and Minister of State Administration	Environmental Sustainability	B,C,E,F,G,H	unknown	B,D,F,G	Both	yes	A,B,C,D
BG	Estimation of Potential Losses from Seismic Risk	The State Agency for Information Technology and Communications	Environmental Sustainability	B,C,E,F,G	unknown	B	Both	yes	A,B,C,D
BG	BNSDI	The State Agency for Information Technology and Communications	Environmental Sustainability	B,C,E,G	unknown	B	Direct commissioning	yes	A,B,C,D
BG	Sustainable Sofia	The Alliance for Environment	Environmental Sustainability	B,C,E,G	unknown	B	Both	yes	A,B,C,D
CY	Research for Enterprises	Research Promotion Foundation	Environmental Sustainability	B,C,H	unknown	B,C,G	Open calls	no	A, B, D, F, H, E
CY	Thematic Actions	Research Promotion Foundation	Environmental Sustainability	B,C,H	unknown	B,C,G	Open calls	no	A, B, D, F, H, E
CY	Programme for the Support of Young Researchers	Research Promotion Foundation	Environmental Sustainability	B,C,H	unknown	B,C,G	Open calls	no	A, B, D, F, H, E
FR	Territorial policies and urban sustainability	PUCA-MTETM, University François Rabelais of Tours	Integrated approach	A,B,D,E,F	122 fte	B,C	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D
FR	Mobility and urban territories	PUCA-MTETM and DRAST-MTETM	Integrated approach	B,C	45 fte	B,C	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D
FR	The city for all	MTETM and Education Ministry	Social sustainability	B,C	60 fte	B,C	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D
DE	Megacities	Federal Ministry of Education and research	Planning	C	unknown	B,C,D,E,F	Open calls	No	A,B,C,D
DE	Building and Housing in the 21 st Century	Federal Ministry for Education and Research en TÜV Rheinland Consulting GmbH	Integrated approach	A,C,G	unknown	B,D,F	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D
DE	Urban Transport and Mobility	Federal Ministry BMVBS, Federal States and Städtetag und	Social-economic development	B,C,D	unknown	B	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D

³ Fte = Full time equivalent



		Gemeindebund							
DE	REFINA	BMBF/PTJ with contribution of BMVBS, BMU, BBR, UBA, BfN	Planning	C,D,H	297 fte	B,F	Open calls	No	A,B,C,D,E
DE	ExWoSt	BMVBS, BBR	Planning	B,C,D,E,G	unknown	B,F	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D
NL	Social Cohesion	Netherlands organisation for scientific research (NWO) and 4 Ministries	Social sustainability	F,H	unknown	B,E	Open calls	Yes	A,B,C,D
NL	Urban Innovation Programme (STIP)	Nicis Institute and NWO	Sustainable decision making	B,C,G	unknown	B,G	Open calls	Yes	A,B,C,D
NL	The Urbanisation and Urban Culture programme	NWO	Social sustainability	H	19 fte	B	Open calls	Yes	A,B,C,D
NL	Urban Renewal and Housing	OTB Research Institute of the University of Delft	Housing	B,C	9 fte	B,C,E	Direct commissioning	Yes	Unknown
NL	Sustainable Housing Transformations	OTB Research Institute and the Faculty of Architecture of the Delft University	Housing	B	19 fte	A,B,C,D,E	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D
NL	Urban Systems and Territorial Governance	OTB Research Institute	Planning	B	13 fte	C	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D
NL	Network Cities	Faculty of Architecture of the Delft University	Planning	A,C,E	5 fte	A,B	Direct commissioning	No	A,B,C
NL	NETHUR	Netherlands Graduate School of Urban & Regional Research	Integrated approach	A,C,E,F,G,H	unknown	B,C,D,E	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D
NL	Economic Evolution in Space	Urban & Regional research centre Utrecht		B,C,D,E,F,G	13 fte	A,B,C,E,F	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D
NL	Vitality, Legitimacy and Multiplicity	Tilburg School of Politics and Public Administration	Governance	A,C,E,F,G	17 fte	A,B,C,D	Direct commissioning	No	A,B,C,D
NL	Corpovenista	Housing associations, Aedes, Research institute OTB	Urban renewal	B,G,H	19 fte	B,C,F,G	Direct commissioning	Yes	A,B,C,E
NO	Urban Development	Research Council of Norway	Planning	B,C,G	unknown	B	Open calls	No	unknown
RO	The Amtrans Programme	Ministry of Education and Research and the National Agency for Scientific Research	Environmental Sustainability	C,G	unknown	B,F	Open calls	Yes	A,B,C,D
RO	The Mener Programme	Ministry of Education and Research and the National Agency for Scientific Research	Environmental Sustainability	C,G	unknown	B,F	Open calls	Yes	A,B,C,D
SE	Sustainable city	Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS)	Integrated approach	G	30 fte	B	Open calls	Yes	A,B,C,D,E



SE	Public space	FORMAS	Integrated approach	B,G	15 fte	B	Open calls	Yes	A,B,C,D,E
SE	Liveable cities	FORMAS	Integrated approach	G	15 fte	B	Open calls	Yes	A,B,C,D,E
UK	Cities: Competitiveness and Cohesion	Economic and Social Research Council	Economic sustainability	B,G	74 fte	B	Open calls	Yes	A,B,C,D
UK	Engineering Cities	Tyndall Centre	Environmental Sustainability	B,G	13 fte	B	Open calls	No	A,B,C,D
UK	Skills and Knowledge for Sustainable Communities	Economic and Social Research Council and Academy for Sustainable Communities	Social sustainability	G,H	40 fte	F	Open calls	No	unknown
UK	Urban Regeneration and the Environment	Natural Environment Research Council	Environmental Sustainability	B,C,D,E,F,G	Unknown	A,B,C,D,E,F	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D
UK	Scottish Community Action Research Fund	Communities Scotland and Community Development Foundation	Social sustainability	C	Unknown	B	Open calls	No	unknown
UK	Sustainable Urban Environment (SUE) Phase 1	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	Environmental Sustainability	B,C,E,F,G	220 fte	B	Open calls	Yes	A,B,C,D
UK	Sustainable Urban Environment (SUE) Phase 2	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	Environmental Sustainability	B,C,E,F,G	126 fte	B	Open calls	No	unknown
UK	Building Knowledge for a Changing Climate (BKCC)	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and UK Climate Impacts Programme	Environmental Sustainability	B,G,H	50 fte	B	Both	Yes	A,B,C,D

Other actors involved

- A = Academic partners from one discipline
- B = Academic partners from several disciplines
- C = National government
- D = Regional government
- E = Local government
- F = Private company
- G = Research agency/institute/organisation
- H = Other

Resources

- A = European funded programmes
- B = Nationally funded programmes
- C = Academic subsidised programmes
- D = Private companies funding
- E = Match Funding
- F = Co-financing by partners
- G = Other

Dissemination methods

- A = By organizing conferences and/or workshops
- B = By publishing articles
- C = By using multimedia communication (website, etc.)
- D = By publishing brochures or other printed communication material
- E = Other



Chapter 5 - Country profiles

5.1 Country profile Austria

Overview of actors

Austrian research related to urban sustainability is promoted by a wide range of institutions and players like the Federal Ministries, the Federal States, Municipalities, industrial and private institutions and funds. The main competence for promoting research is concentrated on the level of the Ministries. This is why the Federal States and the Municipalities of Austria tend to be more involved in promoting research infrastructure and transfer of knowledge between science and economy.

Other institutes that conduct urban research besides the Ministries are the Jubilee Fund of the National Bank (OeNB), the Austrian Academy of Science (ÖAW), the Ludwig Boltzmann Association, the Friedrich-Schiedel-Foundation of Energy Management, the Austrian Electricity Industry Public Company, and the Environmental Support Schemes of the Kommunalkredit Public Consulting.

Another important urban research actor in Austria can be found at the local level. For example, the Municipality of Vienna is closely and intensively working together with scientist from natural, cultural, social and economic science. The Municipality of Vienna is divided into 71 departments, of which several promote research projects related to urban sustainability.

Urban research projects are generally performed at universities and research institutes. Such important research institutes focused on urban issues in Austria are the Austrian Research Centres (ARC) or the Austrian Academy of Sciences, where e.g. the Institute for Urban and Regional Research is located.

Main Research Programmes

Generally Austrian research projects are directly promoted in form of pure contract research. Otherwise the research projects are collected in programmes, some of which are thematically focused and some topically open. Apart from pure contract research some Austrian Ministries pool and launch research programmes:

- The national research programme *proVISION* is part of the Austrian research initiative for sustainable development (FORNE) and it supports the implementation of the strategic goal for a "Sustainable Austria" promoted by the Ministry of Science and Research (bmwf).
- The Program on Technologies for Sustainable Development is a five-year research and technology programme and contains the research programmes *Building of Tomorrow*, *Factory of Tomorrow* and *Energy Systems of Tomorrow*. It has been developed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (bmvit).
- PFEIL 10: The Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (bmlfuw) has organized research conducted in state owned institutions as well as commissioned research in four strategy fields: Rural areas, farming and food, water, Environment and waste management. PFEIL 05 (2002-2005) aims at building and focusing research activity in defined thematic fields; at making research more efficient through interdisciplinary work, cooperation and



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



controlling; and at applying the results in order to ensure the quality of life in Austria. PFEIL 10 (2006-2010) is continuing PFEIL 05 and wants to intensify research on the three strategic fields basic life resources, living space and food.

All three research programmes have sub-themes that deal with questions related to urban sustainability issues.

Topics in urban research

- Vulnerability of water resources caused by fluctuations in precipitation and other climate change induced parameters.
- preservation of peri-urban biosphere reserves,
- energy efficient construction and refurbishment methods,
- traffic growth on the infrastructure in alpine regions.



5.2 Country profile Belgium

Overview of actors

Belgium shows a unique feature; it is the only country where research policies are fully decentralized across several governments, each enjoying complete autonomy of decision and power in these matters. The primary jurisdiction for research policy is within the three Regions and three Communities, while the federal state retains some competences as an exception to this rule.

The Federal Government finances multi-annual research programmes to strengthen the scientific knowledge in Belgium, and to support scientific policy executed by the federal authority. The research areas that are chosen are part of the horizontal research priorities of the Government and should contribute to the debate and solutions on societal issues and developments.

A large part of urban research in Belgium is carried out in universities, which are major actors in the urban research landscape. They depend on the Communities for their funding and management, and are given a lot of autonomy. They also have access to funding sources on the federal and regional levels. The main academic institutes covering urban research in Belgium are:

- The Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning of the Catholic University of Leuven
- The Centre for Sustainable Development of the University of Gent

Main Research Programmes

- Sustainable development (Federal Government research programme). This socio-economic programme covers a range of subjects including drug issues, participative democracy and the modernisation of the administration of authorities. *
- Research Programme of the Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning of the Catholic University of Leuven *

Topics in urban research

- Underprivileged neighbourhoods,
- social cohesion,
- housing and redesigning public spaces,
- reinforcing local infrastructures and amenities.

* included in URBAN-NET database



5.3 Country profile Bulgaria

Overview of actors

The Bulgarian research system is dominated by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Universities, which were primarily education institutions in the past, have increasingly embarked on research initiatives, but still have limited capacity.

The state budget is the main source of financing for research in Bulgaria. There are three strands of financial flow from the state budget:

- Direct subsidies to public research performing organisations – the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and accredited universities;
- subsidies to the ministries who have research performing organisations within their structures;
- subsidies to the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Economy and Energy for developing programme financing through the National Science Fund and the National Innovation Fund. This strand represents the largest strand of urban research funding.

Main Research Programmes

The system is primarily based on direct budget support for research projects. Competitive research programmes, though active since 1990, have increased their weight in the system only in the past 2-3 years. Two of these competitive programmes (with a focus on urban sustainability) are:

- National Research Programme “Dynamic Cities Atlases”*
- National Research Programme Estimation of Potential Losses from Seismic Risk in Urban Areas *

Topics in urban research

- Town planning,
- brownfield regeneration,
- revitalization of deprived neighbourhoods and public spaces.

* included in URBAN-NET database



5.4 Country Profile Cyprus

Overview of actors

Urban Sustainability Research in Cyprus is coordinated by the Research Promotion Foundation (RPF), which is the only organisation responsible for funding and coordinating research in Cyprus.

The Research Promotion Foundation is an independent organisation established by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus (1996) and governed by a twelve-member Board of Directors, appointed by the Council of Ministers. The Foundation serves as the only National organisation for the promotion of scientific and technological research in Cyprus. The main activities of the Research Promotion Foundation fall into two broad categories: the launching National Programmes/Schemes for the funding of applied research projects and the coordination of activities relating to the participation of Cyprus in European Programmes and international cooperation in the areas of research and technology (FP7, EUREKA, COST, ESF, INTAS).

Urban sustainability research is undertaken by the University of Cyprus, the University of Nicosia, the Frederick University, the Cyprus University of Technology and other Academic Institutes such as the Cyprus International Institute for the Environment and Public Health and The Cyprus Institute. Governmental authorities, enterprises and environmental practitioners are also involved in urban sustainability research.

Main research programmes

RPF owns all specific research programmes on urban sustainability issues. The RPF's FP 2003-2006 consisted of three Activity Areas. Each Activity Area consisted of a number of Research Programmes. The three Activity Areas were:

- A: "Multi-thematic Research Development", which aims at the implementation of multi-thematic research projects.
- B: "Applied Research Development", which aims at the development of new products and services for the benefit of Cypriot enterprises in all economic sectors.
- C: "Infrastructure Development and Research Support", which aims at helping the upgrading of the research infrastructure, the promotion of research collaborations and the exploitation of human research potential of Cyprus

In total, RPF's FP 2003-2006 included eleven research programmes including the following:

- Sustainable Development*
- Programme for the Support of Young Researchers*
- Research for Enterprises*

Topics

- Waste management/recycling,
- sustainable buildings,
- sustainable transport,
- preservation of the cultural heritage.

* included in URBAN-NET database



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.5 Country profile Czech Republic

Overview of actors

Research funding in the Czech Republic is structured as follows. The Council for Research and Development prepares proposals for allocating public funds for research. Upon approval by the Government, the Ministry of Finance allocates the funds to the individual providers, i.e. the Ministry of Education, other Ministries, the Academy of Sciences and the Czech Science Foundation.

The Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences is mostly involved in urban issues. Its department 'Local and Regional Studies' focuses on research on the connections between territorially specific factors — local and regional — and processes of social change, including the formation and functioning of socio-spatial configurations, institutional structures, civic participation and the formation of values, attitudes and political orientations. The research also encompasses the sociological aspects of local and regional politics

Another important group of actors are formed by the 25 public universities and 39 private entities providing tertiary education in the Czech Republic. Among these are some actors specialized in urban research:

- The Department of Human Geography and Regional Development of the Charles University in Prague has two branches of scientific and research interest. The first is specialized in regional development which is conceived as a multilateral approach to the studied topic. It is based in the combination of a few branches of human geography – especially public administration, marketing of the city, geography of tourism, geography of transportation, social geography, urban and rural geography, and GIS. The political and cultural geography branch of research interest specializes in political and economic geography, geopolitics, applied sociology, sociology of ethnicity and nationalism, ethnic minorities, cultural geography, historical geography and regional studies with a focus on cultural and political aspects.
- The Department of Environmental Geography of the Institute of Geonics⁴ studies environmental and landscape issues in urban and rural regions in conditions of European integrating processes.

Main research programmes

The Czech Science Foundation and the Academy of Sciences both launch programmes that are not specified according to a thematic area. Researchers in urban sustainability can thus only apply for funds for individual urban research projects within these broader programmes. Academic institutes do not have their own research programmes either.

Topics in urban research

- Environmental hazards,
- environmental impacts of economic restructuring.

⁴ Geonics stands for an area of geosciences focused on processes induced by human factors.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.6 Country profile Denmark

Overview of actors

The Danish urban research area is largely dominated by several research institutes that are mostly agencies of the relevant Ministries. The Danish Building and Urban Research Institute (SBI) is the national institute for building and urban research in Denmark. The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI) is an agency under the Ministry of Environment and Energy and its main responsibility is surveillance and research in the field of environmental problems in Denmark. The Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute (DFLRI) is a sector research institute under the Ministry of the Environment in Denmark. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning within this institute is engaged in research, development, consultation and dissemination of knowledge on planning and land management, aiming to contribute to the sustainable development of urban and rural areas.

Universities are another important group of actors in Danish urban research. Examples of university institutes focused on urban affairs are:

- The Department of Development and Planning of the University of Aalborg
- The University-Network Exchange on Urban Sustainability (U-NEXUS) consisting of the Aalborg University, Denmark's Technical University, Roskilde University Centre, Royal Danish School of Architecture and Copenhagen Business School.

Main programmes

- Welfare Research Programme;
- Danish Environmental Research Programme launched by the Danish Research Council under the Ministry of Science;
- The Urban Planning and Mobility Research Programme focused on cities, mobility, networked infrastructures, and planning – established by the University of Aalborg.

Topics in urban research

- Governance,
- social inclusion,
- crime and security.

The current emphasis in urban research is more on social-economic issues and not so much on ecological issues.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.7 Country profile Estonia

Overview of Estonian actors

The urban planning field in Estonia is coordinated by two ministries - the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, and the Ministry of Interior Affairs. The main funding comes from the government through the Ministry of Education and Research (partly allocated to the Estonian Science Foundation) on the bases of evaluation of individual projects (smaller grant projects or broader research projects).

The Institute of Geography of the University of Tartu is the main performer of urban research. The Institute has carried out several research projects on urban mobility patterns (commuting, housing mobility patterns, etc) by using census data, individual questionnaire-based data collection and mobile positioning techniques. This research is carried out via the scientific funding from the Estonian Government (on the bases of research applications).

There is also some practical research for local or regional governments, e.g. impact assessments for master plans, research and/or population prognoses for designing local or regional development plans, etc. This kind of research is normally outsourced and funded by local or regional governments or other interested institutions.

Main research programmes

In Estonia, there are no research programmes on urban issues, partly because urban issues are not considered to be the national political priority, and partly because there are no research programmes on the local level.

There is no widespread practice of research programmes in any subject in Estonia. Mostly, the research funding is distributed on the basis of individual project applications, which are evaluated by committees formed for evaluating projects from different fields. For policy making, national and local government bodies normally outsource particular studies which are planned in their budgets on yearly bases. There is not much practice of long-term research programmes on different fields.

Topics in urban research

- Sustainable development in general,
- impacts of suburbanization,
- transportation planning and infrastructure development,
- urban mobility patterns and their regional impacts,
- population trends.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.8 Country profile Finland

Overview of Finnish actors

The Academy of Finland is the leading organisation in research funding and science policy in the field of urban policy in Finland. The Academy is an agency of the Ministry of Education. In 1997, it started an urban studies research programme focused on globalization of cities (see below). The Academy of Finland has recently begun financing research done in cities, while it previously financed research mostly done in universities.

The main organisations that conduct research are universities, national public research institutes, local public research institutes, private research organisations and business enterprises. The Finnish research system is quite decentralised, as there are 20 universities 31 polytechnics and 20 government research institutes in Finland.

One of the most important (local) research institutes involved in urban research is the City of Helsinki Urban Facts Institute. It collects, analyses, stores and distributes knowledge about past, present and future of Helsinki and its districts. The Urban Research Unit conducts applied urban research for the administration of the City of Helsinki, for the citizens and for enterprises located in Helsinki. The aim of the research activity is to analyze contemporary urban phenomena from various perspectives. Research and statistical areas include knowledge on population, housing, living conditions, regional and municipal economy, business, employment, city administration and civic participation, urban culture and urban environment

Main research programme

- The Academy of Finland started The Urban Studies research programme focused on globalization of cities, interaction between cities and their neighbourhoods, new use of urban space, risks and possibilities in cities, cities as innovative milieus, new urban economy and urban policies.

Topics in urban research

- Segregation,
- scattered urban structure and transportation,
- urban economics.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.9 Country profile France

Overview of actors

Traditionally, in France, public research is funded through contract mechanisms between the State and the research institutions such as Universities and Public Research Organisations (PROs). Along direct funding, the Government has developed new instruments to fund research on the basis of projects irrespective the institutional affiliation of the researchers. The National Agency for Research (CNRS) was created in 1939 to finance fundamental research on a project basis. From an institutional point of view, CNRS is under the aegis of the Ministry Delegate of Higher Education and Research. However, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Budget and the Ministry of Industry are represented in its Executive Board.

l'Agence Nationale pour la Recherche (ANR) was created in 2005 to activate French research and to better link the research to societal needs. ANR works with calls, providing researchers with supplementary means for a relatively short period of time. At the time of writing, ANR was preparing a call on the topic of sustainable cities.

The urban development construction and architecture plan institute (Plan Urbanisme Construction Architecture, PUCA) has an inter-ministerial vocation, coordinating various research programs on urban development, construction and architecture. The institute was created by the French Ministry of Public Works in order to advance knowledge of territories and cities and to shed light on public action. Its research agenda is elaborated by a board of stakeholders, chaired by a mayor. It leads and organizes calls for research and demonstration proposals from scientific and technical bodies, monitors the various programmes included in PUCA and highlights their value by publishing the results of the work undertaken.

Other public institutes that commission urban research are DRAST (Administration of Research and Scientific and Technical Affairs) and D4E (Department of Economic Studies and Environmental Assessment). DRAST defines and implements the research, development and experimentation policies of its Ministry. D4E's Research and Futures Studies Division supports applied research on environment, including applied research on water and aquatic ecosystems.

A specific institute for urban research in France is the Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB). CSTB is specialised in building materials and techniques, equipment, safety, thermology, acoustics, aerodynamics, lighting, environmental and health issues, advanced communications technology, as well as economics and sociology.

Furthermore, several universities and local governments in France are involved in urban research. Universities mainly act as research performers and local governments have increased their role as urban research funders in the past 10 years. CNR has research laboratories in social science departments of the bigger universities. In addition, urban research is carried out in a few engineering and architectural schools.

Main research programmes

Three research programmes in the field of urban sustainability that were initiated by PUCA:



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



- Territorial policies and urban sustainability*
- The city for all: urban social polarization and public utilities*
- Mobility and urban territories*

Topics in urban research

- Social cohesion,
- critical urban areas,
- integration of immigrant populations,
- economic opportunity zones.

The topics named above are valid mainly for the Ministry of City Policy. In the different MEDAD bodies all themes related to sustainable development are studied. The urban sustainability themes are found within PUCA, the other sustainability related themes are dealt with by the Service de la Recherche et de la Prospective (SRP).

* included in the URBAN-NET database



5.10 Country profile Germany

Overview of actors

Urban research and research promotion in Germany involves a large number of actors, programmes and subjects that both compete with and complement each other. To make this complex structure of actors in urban research visible and to keep it simple at the same time, the following clusters can be distinguished:

- Federal ministries (as owners and managers they are responsible for several promotion and research programmes)
- The federal states (*Länder*) of the Federal Republic of Germany (urban development and housing are *Länder* issues. However, they run very few independent regional research programmes).
- Cities (political institutions and self-governing municipal administrations with decision-making powers).
- Foundations (some have their own research programmes and/or are involved in network projects).
- Universities and university departments (as project implementers, advisory units and networks within the research community).
- Private-sector research and consulting institutions (project implementers and/or advisory units).
- Research centres/multipliers (as project implementers, advisory units and network hubs within the research community).
- European institutions and initiatives (as project implementers and partners for European activities and initiatives).

In Germany, urban development and housing are the responsibility of the *Länder*, the regional and sovereign administrative bodies. Although their focus tends to be more on the promotion of Urban Development, it makes sense to explore urban research in the wider sense at *Länder* level in consideration of Germany's federal structure.

Main research programmes

- Experimental housing and Urban Development/ExWoSt*
- Urban mobility and transport research programme/FOPS
- Building and housing for the 21st century, especially the idea competition and research compound "City 2030" *

Research for sustainability with two focus areas, as both behave as independent research programmes in terms of calls for projects and a considerable number of promoted projects:

- Megacities*
- Sustainable land use/Refina*

In addition, there are other programmes at the Federal level that are relevant for URBAN-NET: the BMVBS demonstration projects on spatial planning (MORO) and the initiative for

* included in the URBAN-NET database



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



multi-generation houses run by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ).

Topics

- Housing,
- sustainability indicators,
- transport,
- renewal in Western and Eastern Germany.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.11 Country Profile Greece

Overview of actors

In Greece, the two dominant characteristics of the national research system are the funding from the public budget and the universities' role in implementing research activities. Universities were traditionally focused on teaching, but started to implement small research projects a few decades ago, funded by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) of the Ministry of Development, while remaining under the formal supervision and funding of the Ministry of Education.

Public research centres perform one fifth of the research in the country. Most of them fall under the supervision of the GSRT. The public research centre for social research houses an institute specialized in urban studies:

- The Institute of Urban and Rural Sociology is based within the National Centre for Social Research. Its research covers several areas including Social geography of urban and rural areas, Family, Sex, Labour, Rural Society and Social Exclusion.

Some universities have developed special research institutes for urban issues such as:

- The Urban and Regional Innovation Research Unit (URENIO) is a university laboratory for the promotion of research and supply of scientific and technological services. URENIO is affiliated to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Development in the Faculty of Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
- The Research Institute of Urban Environment and Human Resources, founded in 1989, is affiliated to the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences in Athens. The aims of the Institute include the promotion of scientific knowledge through interdisciplinary research and applied projects (field work analysis), as well as the consultative support for decision making procedures in the fields of urban and regional development, environmental policies and human resources management.

Main research programmes

There are no specific research programmes on urban issues in Greece. Research is mostly carried out within individual projects instead of in the framework of a programme.

Topics in urban research

- Traffic control,
- cultural heritage,
- digital cities,
- urban sprawl.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.12 Country Profile Hungary

Overview of actors

The main actor in research in Hungary is the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA). The institutes of the MTA are financed by the central budget, distributed by the headquarters of MTA, as well by funds raised through successful application for domestic and international grants. MTA operates 38 research institutes, covering all fields of sciences. The MTA also supervises the activities of the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund, supporting basic research projects, young researchers' projects and R&D infrastructure development on a project base. There is no MTA institute that focuses on urban research.

Several ministries provide funding for research activities in various ways: by running their own research institutes, by offering a mix of core funding and competitive grants for researchers, or by only providing competitive grants to research units, regardless of their owners.

Research activities conducted at universities are financed by the normative research support, that is, institutional funding, as well as by various governmental funds, e.g. the Higher Education Research Fund, offering competitive grants.

Several non-profit and independent research institutes form another group of research actors in Hungary. Some of these are specifically dealing with urban affairs:

- The Hungarian Non-profit Company for Regional Development and Town Planning (VÁTI) is an institute specialised in urban studies. The activities of this institute cover the full scope of research, planning and consultation activities related to regional development, town planning and the protection and reshaping of the built environment.
- The Metropolitan Research Institute (MRI) is an institution working in the areas of housing policy and urban development as well as local government finance research in Hungary. The Institute undertakes research and consultancy assignments, organises conferences and designs, and provides training in these areas.

Main research programmes

There are no specific research programmes on urban issues in Hungary. Urban research is mostly carried out within individual projects instead.

Topics

- National heritage,
- social challenges,
- renewal of large housing estates.



5.13 Country Profile Ireland

Overview of Actors

There is a number of research funding bodies in Ireland. The three main sources of funding for urban research are:

1. National funding from The Environment Protection Agency (EPA);
2. European funding from The European Commission under FP5 AND FP6;
3. European funding through Structural funding streams e.g. INTERREG IIb.

There is some funding under themes of limited relevance for urban sustainability projects funded by the Irish Research Council For The Humanities and Social Sciences and the Royal Irish Academy. In addition, Sustainable Energy Ireland includes funding streams for the built environment, e.g. energy efficient buildings, etc. There is some collaborative research activity between Northern Ireland and Ireland that has a “single island” focus.⁵

The EPA is a government agency. Among its functions is a range of responsibilities in relation to environmental research. The Department of the Environment and Local Government (DoELG) provides a budget for environmental research. This budget forms part of the Irish government's programme for Environmental Research, Technological Development and Innovation (ERTDI). Its multi-annual research programme has four elements:

1. *Sub-measure 1* - Environmentally Sustainable Resources Management
2. *Sub-measure 2* - Sustainable Development
3. *Sub-measure 3* - Cleaner Production
4. *Sub-measure 4* - National Environmental Research Centre of Excellence.

Currently, the EPA have moved onto their next funding programme; STRIVE (Science, Technology, Research & Innovation for the Environment) 2007- 2013. To date there have been no specific calls on urban sustainability issues, but elements are to be found within the climate change and biodiversity calls as well as through individual researcher/fellowship grants. It is not clear yet which other topics will be included as the programme is rolled out over the next six years.

Main research programmes

There are no research programmes specifically on urban issues in Ireland. There does not seem to be an explicit urban focus to funding, though the urban dimension is well represented at the researcher level (UCD Urban Institute, University College Dublin, and also to some extent Cork and Limerick Universities and Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Trinity College Dublin). However, urban research is considered an important topic in Ireland. Researchers are engaged with UK and European partners on a number of networks and collaborations.

Topics in urban research

Under the urban banner, the range of issues is generally environment related. Social and economic issues are fragmented within other programmes. To some extent, urban research is carried out in other ways, though economic and socially focused urban issues seem to be

⁵ The http://www.answer-online.org/project_search.asp database.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



not well very well covered as “urban” topics. The important topics of urban research are thus mainly environmental:

- Air quality and transport,
- socio-economic housing,
- sustainability indicators, land use patterns,
- urban sprawl,
- community development,
- public participation,
- regeneration, and
- brownfield site development.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.14 Country Profile Italy

Overview of actors

Italian research is extremely spread out, both from geographical and from institutional perspectives. Funding sources are diverse (national, European, regional, local, or private). The National Research Council (CNR) is the main funder of research in Italy.

Many universities and research centres seem involved in urban and sustainable development research in Italy:

- The *Centro di Ecologia Umana*, in Padua, conducts interdisciplinary research on environmental issues;
- The Faculty of Architecture of the University of Rome 3 has a department of urban studies;
- The private research organisation, the *Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei* (FEEM), which is actively involved in international and multidisciplinary applied research on sustainable development;
- The University of Milan and the Polytechnic University of Naples both have research centres on urban related studies.

Main research programmes

In Italy, there is no specific programme for urban sustainable development research in CNR. However, CNR indirectly funds research projects on this theme, notably through urban growth and urban competitiveness programmes. It seems that the theme of urban sustainable development has decreased in popularity in Italy. Nonetheless, some urban programmes can be identified among universities and private organisations:

- The research programme of the Polytechnic University of Milan
- The research programme of the department of Architectural and Environmental Conservation of the University of Naples

Research topics

- Environmental economics,
- impact assessment methodologies,
- good governance,
- competitiveness of the cities,
- heritage and more particularly architecture conservation.



5.15 Country Profile Latvia

Overview of actors

The Latvian research system has undergone a considerable transformation over the last 15 years - from a socialist science and technology system under a planned economy to the contemporary research system under market conditions. As a consequence of the Soviet research policy the majority of research institutions were separated from the higher education system. There were 33 specialized research institutes in Latvia in 1990. During last years 15 years state research institutes and their staff have been involved in universities with the aim of modernizing and strengthening the research capacity of universities and improving quality of study programmes.

An important role is played by the Latvian Council of Science, which distributes research funding and offers advice and expertise on research policy-making. Nowadays, the main research performers are the universities and public research institutes. Under the planned system, important research activities were undertaken by the institutes of the Latvian Academy of Sciences. However, most of these institutes are integrated today into the University of Latvia. Some of these institutes are closely related (but not specifically) to urban sustainability issues:

- The Advanced Social and Political Research Institute
- The Institute for Environmental Science and Management
- The Institute of Philosophy and Sociology

The Riga Technical University is the only university in Latvia that has a specific faculty for urban issues: the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning. This faculty undertakes scientific research, and completes contractual projects on urban issues. It does not have its own framework research programme.

Main research programmes

There are no specific research programmes on urban issues in Latvia. The research programme "Information technologies" (launched by the Ministry of Education and Science) and the research programme "Basic and Applied Research Projects" (launched by the Latvian Council of Sciences) both funded some projects related to urban sustainability issues.

Topics in urban research

In Latvia, the concept of the integrated approach on sustainability is only slowly gaining recognition. Transforming local government, urban waste water, and renovation of dwellings blocks are topics that receive much attention in current research in Latvia.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.16 Country Profile Lithuania

Overview of actors

Science and technology policy making is a prerogative of the Lithuanian Science Council and the Ministry of Education of Science (Department of Science and Studies). The latter has established an institutional structure of Research Funding and Research Support (consisting of institutional funding and competitive funding, administrated by Lithuanian Science Foundation). This structure is being supported by the International Science and Technology Programmes Development Agency.

Researchers working at Latvian Universities conduct research on an assignment basis. The volumes of work have grown considerably in recent years. There are two universities in Lithuania that have research departments on urban issues:

- The Vilnius Technical University investigates (amongst other subjects) the objects and design methods of architecture and urban planning, systems of building and territory planning in the context of social and economical transition. It houses two specialised research institutes, the Research Institute of Territorial Planning and the Institute of Architecture.
- The Institute of Architecture and Construction of the Kaunas University of Technology analyses (amongst others) energy saving problems in buildings, climate durability and strength, and the reliability of building structures.

Some other, independent institutes involved in urban research are:

- Research Institute of Territorial Planning
- Transport Research Institute
- Research Laboratory of Urban Analysis
- The Architects Association of Lithuania (AAL)

Main programmes

There are no research programmes in Lithuania that are especially involved with urban issues. Some programmes have funded specific projects on urban sustainability issues, such as the High Technology Development Programme that is coordinated by the Lithuanian State and Study Foundation.

Topics in urban research

- Sustainable urban heritage management,
- urban transport, and
- urban environment conservation.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.17 Country Profile Luxembourg

Overview of actors

Luxembourg's research system is characterized by strong research activities in the private sector undertaken by a few big companies and a low level of public research expenditure. Since urban sustainability research is traditionally an area that is mainly funded by public authorities, urban policy does not receive much funding in Luxembourg.

An increase in the support for research in the public sector began in 1987 with the set up of three public research centres. The first Minister of Research was appointed in 1999, together with the creation of the National Research Fund. Luxembourg's research system is currently composed at the government level of 2 key ministries: The Ministry of the Economy and Foreign Trade responsible for research policy in the private sector and the Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research responsible for research policy in the public sector and university. Besides the ministries, The National Research Fund (FNR) is the only organisation which provides public funds to research. It finances public research projects through multi-annual priority programmes.

The main research performing actors in Luxembourg are companies, the three Public Research Centres and the new University of Luxembourg (established in 2003).

Main research programmes

Since 2000, the FNR has launched nine research programmes in specific domains. Two of them are related to, but not completely focused on, urban sustainability:

- Sustainable management of water resources;
- Socio-economic science: Living tomorrow in Luxembourg.

Research topics

On the national level urban issues have generally been handled within the larger context of spatial development. Issues such as social segregation and integrated approaches of urban and regional development were the main research issues for the past five years.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.18 Country Profile Malta

Main actors

The Malta Council for Science & Technology (MCST) is the leading agency on scientific and technology research. It is responsible for the management of the national research programme. In 2006, the MCST launched the National Strategy for Research and Innovation for 2007-2010, entitled 'Building and Sustaining the Research and Innovation (R&I) Enabling Framework'. The sectors within this Strategy are Environment and Energy Resources, ICT, Value-Added Manufacturing Services and Health-Biotech. Within the MCST, there is no division or department dealing with urban issues.

The Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage was established under the auspices of the University of Malta. This Institute partly deals with urban research. Another institute within the university also deals with urban research questions: the Mediterranean Institute.

Main research programmes

Two programmes of the University of Malta focus on urban sustainability research:

- Environment and Society Research Programme
This programme of the University of Malta focuses on the various aspects dealing with human geography.
- Research Programme on Walled Towns in Malta
The Walled Towns Research Programme of the University of Malta is made up of five-components: Demographic Aspects, Population Mobility, Housing, Transport and Coastal Zone Management.

The MCST only grants funds for urban projects via the National Strategy. Urban research is however not a specific sector within the Strategy.

Research topics

- Heritage conservation,
- sustainable tourism development,
- transport.



5.19 Country Profile the Netherlands

Overview of actors

Urban research in the Netherlands is embedded in a variety of institutions and programmes. Much research on urban issues is carried out by private sector research institutes, among which are specialised institutions, focusing on the built environment, on urban economic and social research, or on urban policy. Some of these institutes have programmes that are realised together with other big actors in the urban arena: the publicly funded knowledge institutes. These are mainly university institutes, but also subsidised bodies with a special task.

The largest of these institutes is the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). NWO receives money from the government for allocation to scientific research and organises competitions or calls for research proposals with that purpose. In the urban sphere, almost all available projects funded by NWO are allocated to university researchers. NWO develops general programmes for research at various levels, normally organised per area of science (urban research can be found under the umbrella of the social sciences), and special programmes, such as the social cohesion programme, or the programme on urbanisation and urban culture.

Other institutes include those that have been developed especially to stimulate research in specific fields in which urban or related issues are central, the most important of them being the Nicis Institute. The aim of Nicis is to stimulate (scientific) urban research and make this available to cities. Others include the Habiforum network organisation that co-ordinates large special research programmes. The Dutch agency for innovation and sustainable development (SenterNovem) is another government agency that performs much urban research. It co-operates with the private sector, non-profit organisations, governmental bodies and research institutions. SenterNovem manages and co-ordinates contracts in the fields of urban built environment and infrastructure.

The universities in the Netherlands play a substantial role in urban research. In at least six universities specific urban research is a focus of attention. Disciplines in which urban issues are central points of attention include, among others, urban geography, urban planning, urban sociology, urban economics and economic geography, but also architecture, urban governance and policy studies, urban history, and infrastructure planning. The researchers in these disciplines receive money directly from the university, and supplement the research budgets and personal capacity with money from NWO programmes, and other special programmes mentioned, including EU programmes. The vast majority of urban researchers in the Netherlands are organised in the Netherlands Graduate School for Housing and Urban Research (NETHUR).

Main research programmes

- NWO research programmes
Programmes that provide substantial opportunities for urban research include: Shifts in Governance, Social Cohesion. Urbanization and Urban Culture.*

* included in the URBAN-NET database



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



- The programme on system innovation, regional land use and area development
- The urban innovation programme/STIP*
- Universities/NETHUR*

Urban research that is carried out at one of the universities in the Netherlands, to a large extent takes place within the framework of the inter-university Netherlands Graduate School for Housing and Urban Research. The umbrella research programme of NETHUR is called “Innovations and dynamics in the physical, economic, socio-cultural and governance aspects of urban and regional systems”.

Topics

- Integration,
- energy efficiency,
- revitalizing deprived neighbourhoods,
- sustainable housing.

* included in the URBAN-NET database



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.20 Country Profile Poland

Overview of actors

The Ministry of Scientific Research and Information Technology (MSRIT) is mainly responsible for research funding and international research cooperation in Poland. Some research funding initiatives are coordinated between MSRIT and other ministries such as the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Economy and Labour as well as the Ministry of Environment. From 1991-2003 the State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN) was responsible for the Polish research policy. It was also the main funding organisation. When MSRIT was formally established in April 2003, KBN was reassigned under the roof of the ministry. Today KBN continues its activities on behalf of MSRIT. The Minister of Science is the chairman of KBN.

The Ministry of Scientific Research and Information Technology provides institutional research funding as well as programme/ project funding. The funding budgets are earmarked in the national research funding budget. Evaluation plays an important role. For the twelve research areas the total amount of institutional funding in 2004 was around 350 Mio. €. Particular funding budgets are assigned to other Ministries (e.g. the ministry of infrastructure). Twice a year open calls for tenders are initiated, funding grants for individual researchers and research teams. KBN also funds strategic research projects by call for tenders. KBN accepted around 200-300 research projects in the last years for funding and was initiating up to 30-40 strategic research projects per year.

Main programmes

The Polish research funding system does not provide strategic-thematic programmes as they are known in other European countries. Instead the country offers the National Framework Programme (NFP) which defines priority research fields. The National Framework Programme was introduced in 2005. It was developed by experts and administrators to define the country's research and development priorities. It serves as a fundamental instrument of the country's research policy.

The Minister of Science and Higher Education announced a call for proposals related to the URBAN -NET objectives on 15 September 2006. The title of the call was the following: Revitalisation of Polish cities as the way to protect their heritage and the factor of their sustainable development. The objective of the projects that were financed under this topic was to create the model for the revitalisation of the Polish cities.

Research topics

For many years the term "sustainable development" was interpreted as "eco-development" which has a strong accent on the natural environment. The consequence is that most of the research works on the sustainable development focus on the environmental aspects of development. The majority of Polish research regarding sustainable development in the cities are concerned with ecological problems: protection and planning of natural environment in the cities; diminishing of burdensome activities like industry; inner city and transit transport; and protection of air and water.



5.21 Country Profile Portugal

Overview of actors

With increasing funds available, a proper academic research system has emerged in recent years in Portugal. The basic managing machinery of this system has been set up, with an organization working as the research council (FCT). The FCT provides the basic funding for the research units for periods as long as five years and organizes their regular evaluation. However, the development of the academic system has not been even. In what concerns the research on the private business sector, the situation is characterized by a very low involvement of firms in research activities.

The first level of actors in urban research is the policy level with the Prime Minister's office and the main Ministries in charge of supporting research: The Higher Education Ministry and the Ministry for the Economy and Innovation. The second level is an operational level. The main Operational Programmes are financing the research system together with the major executive agencies. Finally, the third level concerns the actors that actually perform research activities, which are the research centres at universities, several non-profit RTOs, the public laboratories and private business firms.

Specific actors in the field of urban sustainability studies include:

- The *Centro de Estudos de Urbanismo e de Arquitectura*, a Portuguese university research institute specialised in urban studies.
- The *Centro de Investigação do Território, Transporte e Ambiente* belongs to the University of Porto. Its research areas cover planning and environmental evaluation, urban planning, transport and transport management systems.
- The *Centro de Estudos de Sistemas Urbanos e Regionais* forms part of the Technical University of Lisbon. The center concentrates on urban planning, urban management, spatial dynamics and environment, as well as transport and infrastructures.
- The *Centro de Estudos Geográficos*, part of the University of Lisbon, has research programmes on physical geography and environment, human geography, regional geography and coast dynamics.
- The *Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social (CESIS)* is a non-governmental, independent organisation of researchers from a range of disciplinary backgrounds concerned to promote evidence-based, policy-relevant research at both the national and European level. Among the areas of research and action-research that have secured a continuity of programmes and projects are urban related areas such as poverty in degraded urban areas; migrants and ethnic minorities; and ageing and older people.
- The *Laboratório de Urbanismo e de Arquitectura* at the Technical University in Lisbon is an institute that conducts research on the topics of urban design, urban and spatial planning, urban renewal, housing policy, vulnerable neighbourhoods, landscape and urban heritage.

Main programmes

- Sustainable Energy Systems programme from MIT Portugal involves topics such as Sustainable Energy Development at Regional & Urban Scales and Urban Metabolism.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Other research programmes in Portugal can be classified as general programmes where calls for proposals are issued unspecified to urban research.

Topics in urban research

- Imbalance of the urban system,
- Spatial and urban planning,
- Urban rehabilitation,
- Urban regeneration,
- Housing policy,
- Environmental planning and management,
- Demography
- Historical urban areas,
- Urban and cultural heritage.



5.22 Country Profile Romania

Overview of actors

The Ministry of Education and Research (MER) has the main responsibility in the design and implementation of research, development and innovation policies, through its specialised structure, the National Authority for Scientific Research (NASR). For the implementation of government policies in the research area, MER collaborates with other ministries. There are two funding agencies in Romania: the National Centre for Programme Management – for research programmes coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Research, and the Executive Unit for Funding Academic Research, for research programmes in universities, focusing on the development of scientific careers and academic research capacity.

Another important actor is the Romanian Academy, which has 14 scientific divisions specialized in technical sciences, fundamental research and socio-humanistic sciences. The division Economic Sciences, Juridical Sciences and Social Sciences studies the economic, social and juridical transition of Romanian society to a special type of social community, appropriate to the nature, inclinations and traditions of the Romanian people. This is the division most relevant for urban sustainability topics.

Some privately financed institutes in Romania also have an important role in urban research:

- SC IPA SA is a research institute that studies, amongst other areas, environmental protection issues.
- The Soros Foundation Romania is a NGO that performs several research studies and programmes on Romanian society.

Main Research Programmes

- Urbanism, spatial planning, construction and transports Programme*
- Environment, Energy, Resources Programme*

Both programmes were set up and managed by SC IPA SA.

- Migration and Local Development aims to identify the integration models of the external migration, as well as its effects on the central and local authorities' policy and to promote the models, which allow minimizing the negative effects and maximizing the positive ones (set up by the Soros Foundation).

Other funding programmes in Romania seem to be unspecified and general in terms of topics and areas.

Topics in urban research

- Renovation and upgrading of derelict neighbourhoods,
- transport,
- transition of the economy,
- ethnic minorities.

* included in the URBAN-NET database



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.23 Country Profile Slovakia

Overview of actors

The Ministry of Education is the central body for science and technology in the Slovak Republic, while the Slovak Republic Government Board for Science and Technology is an advisory body of the Slovak Government for preparation and execution of the state-governed policy for science and technology, related to economic, social and cultural development of the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Research and Development Agency (APVV) was created in 2005. APVV is the only instrument for distribution of public finances for research and development on the competitive basis in Slovakia. APVV is responsible for execution of the public research financing, for professional and independent selection process of projects and programmes and monitoring of the research implementation.

Universities are the main research performing group of actors in Slovakia. The Institute of Spatial Planning and Urban Design of the Slovak University of Technology conducts research activities aiming at optimal integration of the principles and methods of urban design, landscape architecture and planning, as well as spatial and land-use planning in relation to current trends and requirements of sustainable development. It does not have its own research programme. The Institute of Towns and Regional Development of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica researches issues like Integration of economic and environmental aspects into regional strategic development, as well as municipal and regional economy and administration.

Main research programmes

The interdisciplinary research programme Life Quality consists of five sub programmes. One of these sub programmes is related to urban issues, and is called: "Impacts of constructing materials, constructions and geological factors on quality of life". This sub programme was funded and managed by the Ministry for Construction and regional development.

Other programmes in Slovakia are not particularly focused on urban sustainability issues.

Topics

- Urban economics in transformation,
- renovation of large housing estates,
- public space.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.24 Country Profile Slovenia

Overview of actors

In 2004, the Slovenian Research Agency was established, taking over many of the operational tasks of the ministry in charge of science. The Agency is the main implementation body for public research and distributes the resources according to the main programmes it runs. In 2006, these included the following support programmes: the support to technology centres, support to innovation organisations, and support to development projects. These programmes do not define specific thematic priorities.

Research performers in Slovenia are predominantly public research organisations since universities are still very much focused on educational functions. The Urban Planning Institute is such a public research organisation, recognised and partly financed by the Slovene Government. Its activities include research and expert development work in the fields of urban and regional planning and related disciplines.

Some universities have created research centres on urban studies, such as the University of Ljubljana which has a research centre on urban studies: the Centre for Spatial Sociology in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Private companies also perform research activities in Slovakia. The Ljubljana Urban Institute is a private company dealing with spatial planning and related activities.

Main Programmes

Public research funding in Slovenia emphasises scientific excellence per se. Consequently, there is an avoidance of priority setting. A more targeted funding mode is used for commissioning specific research to assist in public policy. These schemes are known as Target Research Projects. The largest recipients of the funds in 2006 were the social sciences, since the majority of the target fields related to societal issues (human resources and social cohesion, balanced regional development, economic competitiveness, information society, etc.).

Topics

- Spatial planning,
- regional development,
- housing,
- urban design.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.25 Country Profile Spain

Overview of actors

The Spanish National Plan for Scientific Research, Development and Technological Innovation (R&D&I) is the General Administration's main tool for research in Spain. It was elaborated by the Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with other Ministries and the regional authorities, with the approval of an Inter-ministerial Commission.

In Spain, several Ministries promote research in urban issues. The Ministry of Education and Science is, primarily through the research institution "*Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas*" (CSIC) that funds various research programmes via specific institutes, involved in applied research. The Ministry of Housing, the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Public Works fund different research projects with urban themes.

Among them, the Ministry of Housing, created in 2004, has a more integrated perspective, funding research activities related with sustainable urban development in which the social, economical and environmental aspects are considered. As such, urban sustainability constitutes a research priority in Spain for the General Administration of the State.

As far as university research is concerned, the different regions (Autonomous Communities) establish their specific regulation and priorities.

Finally, some private foundations and institutions participate actively in urban research, filling in a certain way the institutional gap regarding urban sustainability research in Spain. For instance, the *Fundacion Entorno* is an important private foundation involved in applied research on sustainable development.

Main programmes

Whereas the current Spanish National Plan for R&D&I does not consider urban sustainability as a specific area, the Plan contains some sub themes that are intimately related with sustainable urban development: architecture and urban planning, environmental, social and economic subjects; etc. The CSIC has no specific programme regarding urban sustainable development either, but it has programmes relevant to this topic concerning urban competitiveness, urban immigration, and built heritage conservation. For example, the research programme of the CSIC' Instituto de Economía y Geografía (IEG) or the interdisciplinary thematic network for Historical and Cultural Heritage established by CSIC and the Ministry of Education and Science.

The Spanish National Plan for R&D&I for the period 2008 - 2011 contains a specific research line on Building, Spatial Planning and Cultural Heritage that includes the question of the new sustainable urban patterns.

The Ministry of Housing leads many research activities related to sustainable urban development through its Urban Information System, building sustainability and energy efficiency, housing and the land market, etc.

Concerning university research, some research programmes are relevant to URBAN-NET. For example, the sustainable development programme of the University of Barcelona. Within the academic context, some research institutions also address the question of urban sustainability, for example, the Pascual Madoz Institute of Territorial, Urban and



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Environmental Studies (Carlos III University of Madrid), and the Observatory of Sustainability (University of Alcalá de Henares).

Topics in urban research

- Urban planning,
- architecture,
- environment,
- the information society,
- built heritage conservation,
- immigration,
- urban development and land use.



5.26 Country Profile Sweden

Overview of actors

The Swedish Ministry of Education, Research and Culture has overall responsibility for the coordination of research policy in Sweden. Public resources for research have traditionally gone straight to the universities. In the 1940s, however, a system of research councils gradually began to take shape in Sweden. Nowadays, state research funds are allocated both by means of direct appropriations to higher education institutions and by means of appropriations to research councils and sectoral research agencies. The national research councils allocate their funding on the basis of open calls in the framework of research programmes. The councils consist of representatives from the research community, as well as representatives of the general public appointed by the Swedish government.

The following research councils are relevant to urban research:

- The Swedish Research Council provides support for basic research in all academic disciplines. It is a government agency under the Ministry of Education and Research.
- The Swedish Research Council for Working Life and Social Sciences promotes both basic research and needs-based research relating to welfare, public health, social services, the labour market, work systems and the working environment.
- The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS) promotes research into ecologically sustainable development, the natural resources, land and water resources, and their sustainable utilization.
- The four universities of technology in Stockholm (KTH), Göteborg (Chalmers), Lund (LTH) and Luleå (LuTH) perform multidisciplinary research with relevance for urban sustainability at the departments of architecture and civil engineering.

The bulk of government-financed research takes place at Sweden's universities and other higher education institutions. In Sweden today, there are 13 state-owned universities and 23 other state-owned higher education institutions (university colleges and professional schools). We will only name here some of the most relevant for urban sustainability research:

- The Institute for Housing and Urban Research is a multidisciplinary social science research centre of Uppsala University.
- The Centre for Housing and Urban Research at the Örebro University performs research on the processes and outcomes related to the interplay between society, nature and the built environment.

Another important actor in Swedish urban research is the Centre for Regional Science (CERUM) was established by the government in 1983 with the mission to initiate and carry out multidisciplinary research projects and to spread knowledge on research findings to various public interests.

Main programmes

- The FORMAS research programmes: "Sustainable city", "Public space" and "Liveable cities" *

* included in the URBAN-NET database



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Topics in urban research

The Swedish government has proposed a concentration of research funding focus to three broad areas, namely life science, engineering and sustainable development. Within the sustainable development area, the following themes are mentioned: health, biodiversity, cultural/historic values, ecological productivity and the management of natural resources. These themes are in line with the contents of the Swedish environmental goal “a good built environment”. Broad interdisciplinary approaches including social, economic and ecological dimensions are recommended. The next proposition is due in 2008.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.27 Country Profile Turkey

Overview of actors

The main research funding body in Turkey is the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK). TUBITAK is also the institution responsible for designing research and innovation policies as well as developing and managing main research programmes.

The most important research performers in Turkey are the universities. Established in 1961, the Department of City and Regional Planning at the Middle East Technical University (METU) is the first and one of the largest schools of planning in Turkey. It has played a key role in the education of planners and educators, and in development of urban research. Among other universities involved in urban sustainability studies are:

- Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, Department of Urban and Regional Planning,
- Bilkent University, Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, Interior Architecture and Environmental Design,
- Gazi University, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Department of City and Regional Planning,
- Izmir Institute of Technology, Department of City and Regional Planning,
- Mersin University, Faculty of Architecture, Department of City and Regional Planning, and
- Yildiz Technical University, Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) is also active in environment and sustainability research. TÜBA's fellowship programme provides support for doctoral and post-doctoral research on urban issues among other research areas. There are also non-governmental research organisations and urban research institutes. Two of these organizations are:

- The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) which is an independent, non-governmental think-tank, established in October 2004. TEPAV contributes to policy discussions in Turkey and aims to remove the gap between academic research and policy implementation.
- Urban and Environmental Planning and Research Centre at Istanbul Technical University is a multidisciplinary centre which contributes to research activities, provides and coordinates communication between researchers and public and private sectors, and work in collaboration with other institutions at the national and international level.

Main Programmes

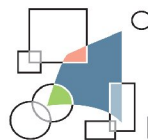
There are no research programmes specific to urban issues in Turkey. Turkish research funding system has open-theme research programmes. Projects that focus on urbanisation and urban sustainability are financed through these programmes.

Topics in urban research

Urban research includes a range of issues from transformation of urban spaces to socio-spatial processes in urban areas. Urban research is also carried out as focused more on economic and social issues. Main topics in urban research are: risk management, urban



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



URBAN-NET

poverty and social exclusion, air quality and transport, energy use and infrastructure, sustainable housing and urban management.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



5.28 Country Profile United Kingdom

Overview of actors

In the UK most research funding is derived from and accessed by the research community through 2 main routes;

- 1) Indirectly from the government Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills via the seven research funding councils and,
- 2) Directly from the many government departments.

The research councils tend to fund original or “blue sky” research to be carried by universities, and of these; three research councils fund research relevant to issues relating to urban sustainability: the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council), the EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) and the NERC (Natural Environment Research Council). Since the beginning of the 1990s, when sustainable development became a top priority for the UK government agenda the profile and level of activity of urban sustainability research has increased through many programmes and collaborative actions.

Programmes of the government departments tend to be more directly applied to policy formulation and the programmes that have a close fit to urban sustainability issues tend to be mainly under the programmes of the Communities and Local Government Department, and to a small extent the Department for Transport.

University research is very well developed in the UK with many research activities being undertaken that are part of programmes and projects of interest to URBAN-NET. Collaborations between UK universities on integrated approaches are very common, as is the stakeholder participation of public, private and commercial bodies. An example of this is the Sustainable Urban Forms Consortium which is a collaborative cluster of projects under the Infrastructure and Environment sub-programme of the EPSRC, between The Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development of Oxford Brookes University, School of the Built Environment of Herriot Watt University, Department of Animal and Plant Sciences of Sheffield University, Department of Civil Engineering of University of Strathclyde University and of DE Montfort University and a number of public and private stakeholders included in the consortium.

Many UK universities have an involvement in urban sustainability research of interest to URBAN-NET. These are too many to list in detail here and some of these have academic and research departments dedicated specifically to urban related topics.

Main programmes

Current and recently completed programmes and their sub programmes of central interest to URBAN-NET can be browsed through the online databases of the main research organisations already mentioned and include the following;

ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council)

- Skills and Knowledge for Sustainable Communities*

* included in the URBAN-NET database



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



- Towards the Civilized City and Cities: Competitiveness and Cohesion*

EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council)

- Infrastructure and Environment Sub-programme includes: Implementation Strategies for Sustainable Urban Environment Systems, Sustainable Urban Environment*; Sustainable Urban Form Consortium, Urban sustainability for the twenty-four hour city, Strategies and Technologies for sustainable Urban Waste Management,
- Climate Change Sub-programme includes: Sustainable Cities-Options for Responding to Climate Change Impacts and Outcomes, Sustaining Knowledge for a Changing Climate.
- Sustainable Environments and Communities Sub-programme includes: Accessibility and User Needs for sustainable Urban Environments, An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Urban Redevelopment, Pollutants in the Urban Environment, Sustainable Regeneration, Future Urban Technologies, Regional Visions of Integrated Sustainable Infrastructure Optimised for Neighbourhoods.

NERC (Natural Environment Research Council)

- Urban Regeneration and the Environment*
- Engineering Cities*

Communities and Local government

- Sustainable Communities
- Local and Regional Government
- Neighbourhood Renewal
- Social Exclusion
- New Horizons

Department for Transport

No specific programme, but many projects of a number of programmes are relevant.

Research topics

Research projects of central significance are often fragmented and can be found in programmes and sub programmes that are not intuitively urban-related but have interest to URBAN-NET. Topics include: urban form; planning, modelling for planning decision support tools, regeneration, quality of life; impacts of and adaptation to climate change; skills and knowledge for sustainable communities, homelessness, green spaces, access and mobility, sustainable transport, urban pollutants, socio-environmental dimensions of the city; rural-urban relationships, energy consumption patterns, carbon footprint, integrated infrastructure, local government, regional governance, citizen participation, local services delivery, neighbourhood deprivation, urban poverty, social cohesion, social inclusion/exclusion, housing.

* included in the URBAN-NET database

Chapter 6 - Short summaries of the research programmes in the database

1. *ProVISION – Austria*

The programme supports research in the fields of climate change, sustainable development, ecosystem services and spatial and regional development. It is part of the Austrian research initiative for sustainable development (FORNE) and it supports the implementation of the strategic goal for a “Sustainable Austria”. It was set up by the Austrian government in cooperation with several local government bodies, universities and research institutes.

2. *Research programme of the Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning (ASRO) of the University of Leuven – Belgium*

Research at the ASRO department is conducted in four divisions:

- Architectural History and Conservation
- Theory of Urbanism and Architecture (OSA)
- Design and Building Methodology
- Planning and Development

The programme is set up by the University and receives funding from several institutions.

3. *Standing Conference on Territorial Development (Conférence Permanente du Développement Territorial – CPDT) - Walloon Region Belgium*

This regional research programme aims to contribute to long term research in the field of land use planning, urban planning and territorial development. It will result in decision support tools for the Regional Government, through long- and medium-term research studies and short term expert assessments. It also addresses issues such as transport & mobility, and social issues.

4. *National Research Programme for Urban Territories – Dynamic Cities Atlases – Bulgaria*

This research programme is a continuation of a previous research programme – “Digital dynamic urban maps”. The programme is financed from the government and municipalities, with contributions from the Bulgarian-Bavarian Commission. Both programmes are in correspondence with the governmental strategy for development and implementation of e-government on regional and municipal level through using modern and objective methods for research, observation, monitoring and policy-decision. A key element of the programme organisation was the involvement of municipalities or local authorities as partners under the submitted projects.

5. *National Research Programme – Estimation of Potential Losses from Seismic Risk in Urban Areas – Bulgaria*

The research programme has several main themes: elaboration of theme cadastre, geological and geophysical maps, evaluation of building constructions, passportisation



methodology for buildings using a unified code, simulation models, etc. The programme is financed by the government. The programme is in line with the governmental strategy for development and implementation of e-government on the local and municipal level through using modern and objective methods for research, observation, monitoring and policy decision making. A key element of the programme organisation was the involvement of a municipal or local authority as a main partner under the submitted projects.

6. *BNSDI – Bulgaria*

The National Research Programme for National Transport Systems – BNSDI - is a programme financed from the government through the State Agency for ICT. It is in line with the governmental strategy for development and implementation of e-government on the local and municipal levels through using modern and objective methods for research, observation, monitoring and policy-decision. One of the objectives is to create a spatial database. It is envisaged that the Spatial Database will be linked to the European spatial database, which will be developed under the INSPIRE Programme of the European Union.

7. *Local Research Programme – Local Agenda 21 “Sustainable Sofia” – Bulgaria*

The programme is part of the revised national sustainable urban strategy based on a number of pilot projects. It deals with issues such as management of degraded areas, models for suburban recreation and sports zones. The following results are expected: a positive effect on inhabitants' health, an environmental and economic positive effect, rehabilitation of degraded areas, and development of the degraded areas as a part of “Ecozone Sofia”. The programme was approved by the City Council in 2001 and was implemented in cooperation with ASDE and with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Waters, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the state administration, UNDP, and other NGO's.

8. *Thematic Actions – Cyprus*

This research programme of the Research Promotion Foundation (RPF) aims at the implementation of multi-thematic research projects. Within the research programme Thematic Actions an action dedicated to sustainable development was established. This thematic action promotes the sustainable development of agriculture, fishery and forestry, the natural environment and the urban environment. The dissemination of research results increases awareness among the general public, the industry and the public sector regarding environmental protection, as well as the conservation and rational use of natural resources. Great importance is also given to modernization of traditional agricultural methods and the development of new approaches.

9. *Programme for the Support of Young Researchers – Cyprus*

This RPF programme aims at providing research centres with an incentive to recruit young researchers and to encourage their involvement in specific high-level research projects. The proposed research projects should be of a high level, have a duration of 18 to 24 months, and be implemented in the premises of the Research Centre, under the

supervision of an experienced researcher. The subject of the proposed research projects may be the same as research conducted by the proposed young researchers. Currently, RPF has two projects running in the areas of sustainable urban development related to and sustainable water management and pollution control in urban areas.

10. Research for Enterprises – Cyprus

RPF launched this specific research programme for the benefit of Cypriot enterprises. The main objective of the programme is to stimulate research interest in the Cyprus business world and to provide incentives for cooperation between enterprises and research centres in all areas of science and engineering including environmental sciences and sustainable development.

11. Territorial policies and urban sustainability - France

The programme analyses how the notion of sustainable development is understood by local, regional, national actors of territorial policies with the aim to transform it in a tool for rational action. It is set up by PUCA and research department of Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development. It is carried out by several universities and research institutes.

12. Mobility and urban territories – France.

The programme deals with questions like: How does a town reorganize its governance in relation to the inhabitants' mobility? How to balance the positive aspects of mobility (autonomy, economic progress) and the negative features (congestion, inequalities)? Is it possible to have an integrated urban vision of mobility? The programme was set up by PUCA and carried together by several academic institutes.

13. The city for all: urban social polarization and public utilities – France

The programme analysed the tensions under which public administrators have to make their choices: competition and cohesion, equality and social mix, citizenship and privatisation. The programme was managed and coordinated by PUCA and co-financed by the Ministry of Education, the Home Office, and the Ministry of Public Transports.

14. Research for Sustainable Development of Tomorrow's Megacities - Germany

This BMBF led programme pursues a user-oriented and participatory approach, compiling background and direct knowledge in a practical dialogue with the federal states, regions and cities concerned. Research institutes, local institutions that are responsible for urban development and relevant interest groups from politics, economics and society were brought together from the outset of the programme so that the issues handled correspond with their real needs.

15. Experimental Housing and Urban Development (ExWoSt) – Germany

The scope of this programme is on housing, urban renewal, community development and urban development. Issues and research objectives were agreed in consultation with the German Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs and the individual



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Federal States. In consultation with their respective Federal State anyone involved in housing and urban development can apply to participate in the demonstration projects for the research fields. In addition to the general generation of knowledge for the community, the primary purpose of this programme is to further develop funding policy in the named areas and to integrate new findings within planning and decision-making processes.

16. Building and Housing in the 21st Century, Germany

The research programme aims to support the elaboration of new basic orientations in the development and testing of new approaches and models for living in cities and regions. It also seeks to help strengthen the competitiveness of the construction sector. In this context “housing” implies the complex reality of the build environment, in which social structures and conflicts, individual lifestyles and social needs as well as consumption patterns and cultural preferences emerge. As a result of global development (ecological crisis, telematics, transnational economies) and local constraints (financial crisis of municipalities) a huge search for new orientation can be considered. Integrated decision-making and action require different types of knowledge and new competencies.

17. Urban Transport and Mobility – Germany

The research programme, which part of an official investment framework, is well established and has robust institutional and financial structures. Research areas and topics were developed through a complex coordination and communication process, in which the Federal States as well as common organisations of local authorities were involved. After collecting project ideas and research areas of the “community” (universities, cities, etc.) a research agency and a scientific board were asked to qualify these topics for projects in terms of specification of service. These mechanism guaranteed an emphasis on applied research projects.

18. Research for the Reduction of Land Consumption and for Promoting Sustainable Land Management (REFINA) – Germany

REFINA is funded by BMBF, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and is part of the German National Strategy for Sustainable Development. The German Federal Government has set the goal of reducing land consumption for settlement and transport to 30 hectares per day in 2020. In order to provide a scientifically reliable basis for decisions and measures, REFINA grants the development and testing of innovative concepts for the reduction of land consumption to achieve a multitude of goals such as protection of the environment and nature, economical growth, socially balanced housing, architectural urban quality, and mobility.

19. Social Cohesion – The Netherlands

In this programme the Netherlands Organisation of Scientific Research (NWO) cooperates with a number of governmental departments which seek attention for their policy questions about social cohesion in Dutch society. The research results enable them to gain perspectives that are relevant to governmental policy.



The Social Cohesion programme consists of two component programmes: 1) the Dutch Multicultural and Pluriform Society and 2) Social Participation, Commitment and Bonding. Both have their own angle and clearly complement each other. These sub-programmes are placed under the auspices of the Programme Council to make sure they are linked to each other in terms of organisation.

20. Urban Innovation Programme (STIP) – The Netherlands

STIP seeks answers and effective solutions to problems in cities. In doing so, it is not only important to know what works, but also why it works. STIP addresses urban problems and issues and the role the government plays in these. The programme aims to increase and improve the production and dissemination of knowledge on urban issues, to ameliorate the practical implementation of scientifically attained insights in policies, and to create networks between scientists and the practitioners in the field. Discussions on how to tackle urban problems and generate new methods and lines of approach is part of this. STIP is a joint research programme of NWO and the Nicis Institute.

21. The Urbanisation and Urban Culture programme – The Netherlands

The Urbanization & Urban Culture programme focuses on the changing patterns of both the physical appearance of and the socio-economic reality in cities. This urban study is framed in three thematic clusters:

- urban patterns of economic dynamism and social mobility;
- urbanism, urban self-image, and urban representation;
- the public nature of cities and the public domain.

The Urbanization & Urban Culture programme is a joint programme of the NWO research councils for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

22. Urban Renewal and Housing – The Netherlands

The Sustainable Renewal and Housing research programme forms part of the Delft University of Technology Sustainable Urban Areas research priority. The programme concerns with the way in which residential districts function and change over time.

Urban Renewal and Housing research programme examines the various processes within three themes:

- Urban renewal
- Social and spatial integration in residential neighbourhoods
- The organization of urban renewal

The theme groups meet six to eight times a year. These meetings provide a platform for discussions between the researchers.

23. Network Cities – The Netherlands

Though information and communication technologies are playing an increasing role in the way society is run, they are scarcely an issue in urban transformation processes. The research within this programme concerns the relation between spatial planning and developments in information and communication technology (ICT). The Network City is the research programme of the Chair Spatial Planning Group of the Section Urbanism of the Faculty of Architecture at Delft University of Technology. Network Cities is one of the



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



ten research programmes of the Delft Centre for Sustainable Urban Areas (SUA), a multidisciplinary research centre of the Delft University of Technology.

24. Urban Systems and Territorial Governance/Urban and Regional Development – The Netherlands

The Urban Systems and Territorial Governance Programme of the OTB Research Institute incorporates the following interrelated research themes:

- Spatial development - The research activities in this topic are clustered around spatial analysis and spatial policy at all levels – from local to international – and include the growing interaction between these levels, policy-steering opportunities and the behavioural patterns of individuals, households and businesses.
- Spatial planning - Encompasses the issues of spatial concepts and theories, urban and regional governance and spatial policy formulation and implementation. The relationships between these issues are also of great importance.

25. Sustainable Housing Transformations (SHT) – The Netherlands

The SHT research programme focuses on the questions concerning the sustainable transformation of the housing stock. It is structured around three themes:

- Sustainable and Healthy Housing;
- Strategic Housing Stock Policy and Technical Management;
- Building Regulations and Quality Assurance.

The programme is jointly undertaken by the OTB Institute of Housing and Mobility Studies (Sustainable Housing Management and Quality Assurance section) and the Faculty of Architecture, Department of Real Estate and Housing (Housing section).

The research projects undertaken have a distinct multidisciplinary character, giving rise to many points of convergence.

26. Innovations and dynamics in the physical, economic, socio-cultural and governance aspects of urban and regional systems – The Netherlands

The research programme is set up by the Netherlands Graduate School of Urban and Regional Research (NETHUR) at the University of Utrecht. Research activities are focussed on three coordinated themes:

- Socio-Physical Dynamics of Urban and Regional Space;
- Innovation and Dynamics of Spatial-Economic Development;
- Effective Governance of Urban and Regional Change.

Of the new research lines that have emerged in the school, joint efforts will be erected towards two areas of inquiry in the coming years:

- a. Spatial Conditions for Knowledge Cities;
- b. Urban Context and Social Change.

27. Corpovenista – The Netherlands

Corpovenista is part of the 'Innovative Space Usage' programme and attracts funding from the national government, a consortium of ten of the bigger housing associations in the Netherlands and Aedes, the umbrella organisation of social housing associations. An important part of this programme is the knowledge exchange with practising



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



professionals. The housing associations have contributed to the different projects with cases and the membership of supportive committees. The central research question is: which economic, social-cultural and technical developments are present in urban renewal in the Netherlands and how can these influence the policy of the housing associations?

28. Economic Evolution in Space – The Netherlands

The aim of this research programme is to work out, both conceptually and empirically, the outlines of what might be called an evolutionary economic geography approach. Evolutionary economics is a new field of research in economics. Over the last years, several researchers in the programme have contributed to the international and national debates in this field. The intention is to broaden this expertise and to stimulate a joined attempt to develop applications of the evolutionary approach in economic geography. The programme is managed and funded by the University of Utrecht.

29. Vitality, Legitimacy and Multiplicity – The Netherlands

This research programme is managed by the Tilburg School of Politics and Public Administration. The programme focuses on transition processes in the emerging network society. It proceeds on the basis of fifteen years of research on informatisation in the public sector, broadening its focus to the impact of other significant developments. These include not only informatisation, but also globalisation and Europeanization, the rise of multicultural societies, and the emergence of new governance systems. The research programme studies these developments at three different, but mutually dependent levels of the public sector: the state, the city, and the third sector.

30. Urban development, driving forces and planning challenges – Norway

The main theme of this research programme is to gather empirical knowledge about processes of change in Norwegian cities so as to develop a better theoretical understanding of this topic. The cities of Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Stavanger, Kristiansand and Tromsø were being researched in their functioning as regional centres. The results show that there is a lack of knowledge about the processes of urban transformation and that is important to see the city in a regional context. The programme is dominated by empirically based research. It is managed and funded by the national Research Council of Norway.

31. The Amtrans Programme – Romania

This research programme is mainly an applied research programme focusing on the balanced management of the Romanian territory for the continuous improvement of the living conditions: responsible use of basic resources; the fulfilment of the security, safety, comfort and specific conditions of construction, urbanism and spatial planning works. It is financed and managed by the Ministry of Education and Research and the National Agency for Scientific Research.

32. The Mener Programme – Romania



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



The programme focuses on the increase of the economic competitiveness and durable economic development through protection and rational exploitation of the national natural capital and environment; technical-scientific fundament of methods, procedures, technologies and prediction, prevention, protection, intervention equipment for natural and atrophic risks; increase the efficiency on the whole chain of production and exploitation in the energetic sector according to the EU standards; the protection of the geological environment and the rational use of mineral resources; and ensuring the scientific and technical support for specific activities in the nuclear domain, according to the nuclear security demands and the national nuclear techniques. It is managed and funded by the Ministry of Education and Research and the National Agency for Scientific Research.

33. The Sustainable City – Sweden

Cities are engines for economic growth. They seek to offer welfare and social integration for its inhabitants. Cities are targets for the policies for environment, housing, transports and cultural heritage. How can the demands for a socially, democratically and ecologically sustainable urban development be implemented? “Sustainable cities” is one of two programmes, launched at the same time, addressing this question. This programme is focussed on ecological sustainability. The other programme is “Liveable cities”, focuses more on social sustainability (see below). The programme is set up and funded by FORMAS (The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning) and its academic partners.

34. Liveable cities – Sweden

“Liveable cities” is the other research programme that was mentioned above (in “The Sustainable City”). It focuses specifically on social sustainability. The main objective is to create research competence within the area of urban life and urban development, as well as to produce knowledge which is useful for practitioners. The research concentrates on the needs of practitioners. The programme is set up and funded by FORMAS and its academic partners.

35. Public space – Sweden

Public space provides an opportunity for all kinds of people to meet on equal terms. Public space tends to loose ground to cars and commercial activities; it is glazed over and changed to suit special functions. The public use and meaning of urban spaces also change. There is a great public interest in the design of public spaces, and attractive public spaces are more and more considered as an important aspect of economic competitiveness of cities. The main objective of this programme is to study urban spaces from various aspects - social, climatological, democratic, etc. The aim is also to support interdisciplinary research teams. FORMAS and academic partners from several disciplines are managing and funding this programme.

36. Scottish Community Action Research Fund (SCARF) – UK

The Scottish Community Action Research Fund supports community groups in improving their skills and confidence to carry out their own research. The fund helps them to plan a



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



project, collect information, analyse it, use the information and learn from the experience. SCARF provides funding for research by community organisations to help communities get actively involved in decisions that affect them and improve their circumstances. SCARF is paid for by the Communities Scotland (the Scottish Government's housing and regeneration agency). The fund is managed by the Scottish Community Development Centre.

37. The sustainable urban environment programme (SUE) 1 – UK

The programme considers all aspects of sustainable urban environments, including social, environmental and economic impacts, using the Brundtland definition of sustainability. Parts of the programme consider societal issues such as social housing, greater community participation in urban planning processes and socially inclusive transport design. It is supported by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) of the UK. It funds 12 ambitious multidisciplinary consortia across 4 clusters (or themes), altogether involving more than 30 UK universities and over 120 project partners including local authorities, large and small companies, town planners and charities.

38. The sustainable urban environment programme (SUE) 2 – UK

The Sustainable Urban Environment 2 programme is the follow up on SUE1. It funds 6 ambitious multidisciplinary consortia, altogether involving more than 20 UK universities and over 70 project partners including local authorities, large and small companies, town planners and charities. The consortia are; Sustainable regeneration: from evidence-based urban futures to implementation; Measurement, Modelling, Mapping and Management; Urban River Corridors and Sustainable Living Agendas; and Integrated Framework for Improving Sustainability of the Indoor Environment.

39. Cities: Competitiveness and Cohesion – UK

The programme aims to improve understanding of how cities develop and mobilise distinctive economic assets to secure competitive advantage, and how these processes impact upon and are influenced by social cohesion and environmental quality. It was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and had a Director who was responsible for co-ordinating the individual projects, maximising synergies between them and ensuring appropriate dissemination of findings to the academic and user communities.

40. Urban Regeneration and the Environment (URGENT) Programme – UK

The URGENT research programme was established by the UK Natural Environment Research Council in 1997 to integrate urban ecological and environmental research across the geological, terrestrial, freshwater and atmospheric sciences. URGENT encouraged and facilitated partnerships with city authorities, industry and regulatory bodies. The programme covered urban environmental science. The projects within the programme were grouped into soils, water, atmospheric science, ecology, with umbrella integrative mechanisms, such as info systems for user groups, devolved data centres and foci on study regions (especially West Midlands of England, South Wales and



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Edinburgh to Glasgow areas). Steering committees at project and Programme levels included industrial, public agencies, Local government, central government and academic representatives.

41. Skills and Knowledge for Sustainable Communities Initiative – UK

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC) commission a number of research projects addressing the development of skills and knowledge for sustainable communities. The programme aims to support independent, high quality research that links new thinking, ideas and knowledge to the development of skills and practice in the sustainable communities field. The focus is on enhancing the skills and knowledge that are needed to create and maintain better places, now and in the future. The programme addresses skills and knowledge gaps in over 100 occupations that contribute to delivering sustainable communities. These skills include: leadership, community engagement, project management, partnership working and communication.

42. Engineering Cities – UK

The aim of the programme is to develop a city-scale assessment capacity tool that simulates the evolution of climate impacts and emissions over the 21st century. The tool will be applied by urban policy-makers, planners, engineers and other stakeholders to compare alternative adaptation and mitigation strategies, as well as to consider how cities grow whilst reducing emissions and vulnerability to climate change. The “Engineering Cities” Programme is a programme of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research of the UK.

43. Building Knowledge for a Changing Climate (BKCC) – UK

BKCC is a portfolio of research projects looking at how climate change will affect aspects of the built environment, transport and utilities. Research projects cover areas ranging from risk management to the impact of climate change on energy supplies, land use and historic buildings. The Building Knowledge for a Changing Climate Programme is funded by the UK’s Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and managed in collaboration with the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP).

Chapter 7 - Comparing the research programmes in the database

7.1 Main thematic areas

To be able to compare the thematic areas of the research programmes, it is necessary to classify them by theme. This can be done in two distinct ways. The first is very straightforward and might not do justice to the complicated issues that are dealt with in the programmes. However, this simple classification method enables us to get a broad overview of the spectrum of thematic areas of the programmes.

Classifying each programme by only one thematic area delivers the following overview:

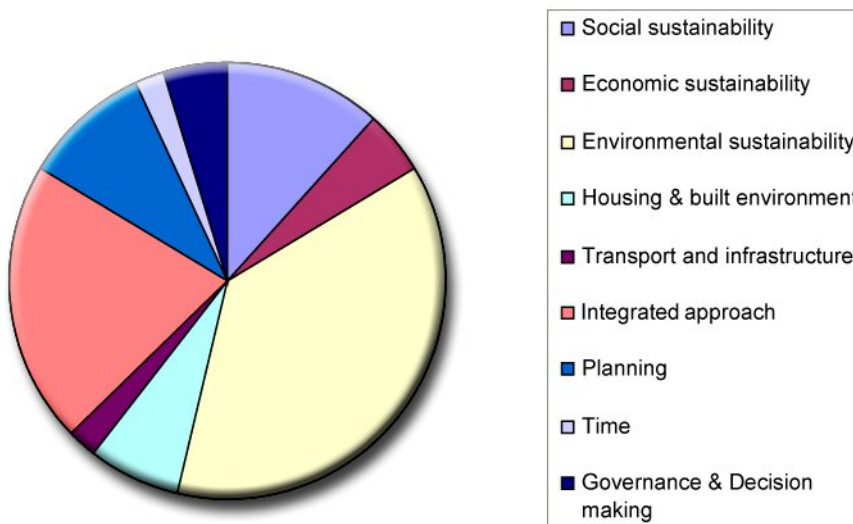


Diagram 1 - Research programmes classified by one thematic area

This overview clearly shows that most research programmes within the database are focused on environmental sustainability (37%), followed by the programmes with an integrated approach (20%). Since “integrated approach”, “planning”, “time” and “governance & decision making” are all cross-cutting dimensions of urban sustainability; we can conclude that 37% of the programmes are focus on integrated aspects of urban development.

However, most research programmes are far too complex to be classified under one single thematic area or cluster. Therefore, Diagram 2 does more justice to their complexity and their rate of integration between several thematic areas. Diagram 2 represents the place at which programmes can be classified in the “relationship diagram for the clusters and dimensions in urban sustainability” (a model developed earlier in the project – see page 4).



“cross-cutting dimensions circle” or with issues from another sector (“economic sustainability” or “social sustainability”).

Thus can be concluded that the majority of the programmes deal with research questions that can be classified under *more than one* thematic area. Only 28% of the research programmes focus on one single thematic area. These are the programmes that are placed within only one of the blue segments of Diagram 2.

7.2 Spectrum of actors

The composition of each research programme’s consortium is described in the URBAN-NET database.

As shown in Diagram 3, most programmes (38%) are set up by research agencies/institutes. National governments and academic partners are also major actors in setting up research programmes. National governments set up 22% of the programmes in the URBAN-NET database, and academic partners from several disciplines were responsible for setting up 16% of the programmes in the database.

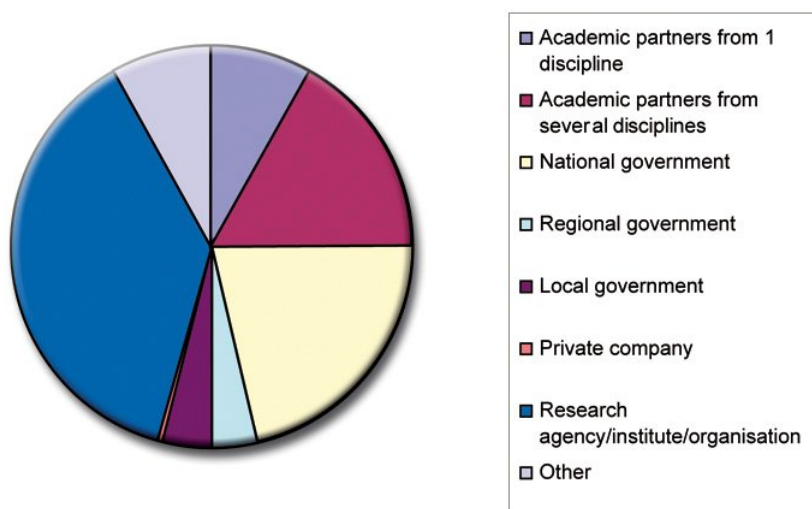


Diagram 3 - Organisation that set up the research programme

Diagram 4 below represents the other actors involved in the research programmes as consortium member. These consortium members can be managing, coordinating or financing partners. Academic partners and national governments are each involved in 26 (60%) of the research programmes. Research institutes/agencies are also quite often represented in programme consortia (53%).

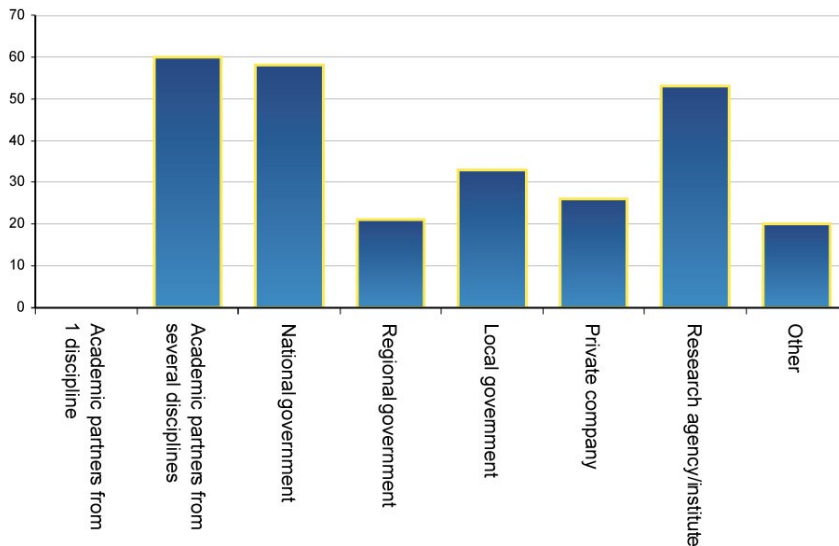


Diagram 4 - Other actors involved in the research programme

Comparing diagrams 3 and 4, it can be concluded that research agencies, national governments and academic partners from several disciplines are the main actors in research programmes in Europe, both in setting up programmes and as consortium partners. In addition, and more surprisingly, is the frequent local government involvement in research programmes as a consortium partner instead of as an organisation that sets up programmes. This is also the case for private companies.

7.3 Organisation

The programmes in the database all have focus areas or thematic areas that have been decided on by several actors. Almost all programmes have a decision-making structure that involves more than one actor. Only two programmes named just one actor that was able to decide on the thematic area of the programme. The other programmes involved several actors in this important decision.

The following diagram shows which actors were able to decide on the thematic area of a programme when the programme was set up.

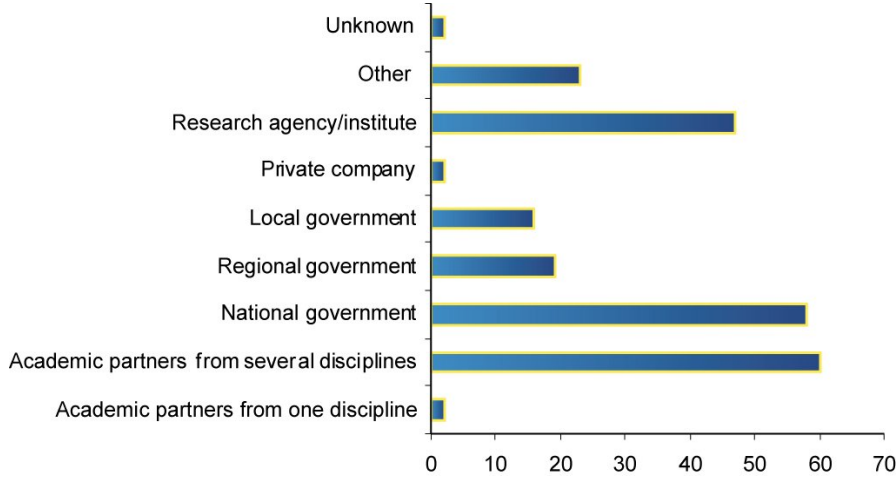


Diagram 5 - Decision making structure on the thematic areas of the programme

Diagram 5 shows that academic partners from several disciplines and national government are involved in the decision-making of many research programmes: academic partners are involved in 60% of the programmes, and national government in 58%. Furthermore, research agencies/institutes were involved in 48% of the programmes as co-decision maker.

Closely linked to this question, is the question whether it is possible to adapt the thematic area or scope of a programme throughout the duration of the programme, and if so, by which actors can decide on such a change. The following diagram shows how the national programmes in the database responded to that question.

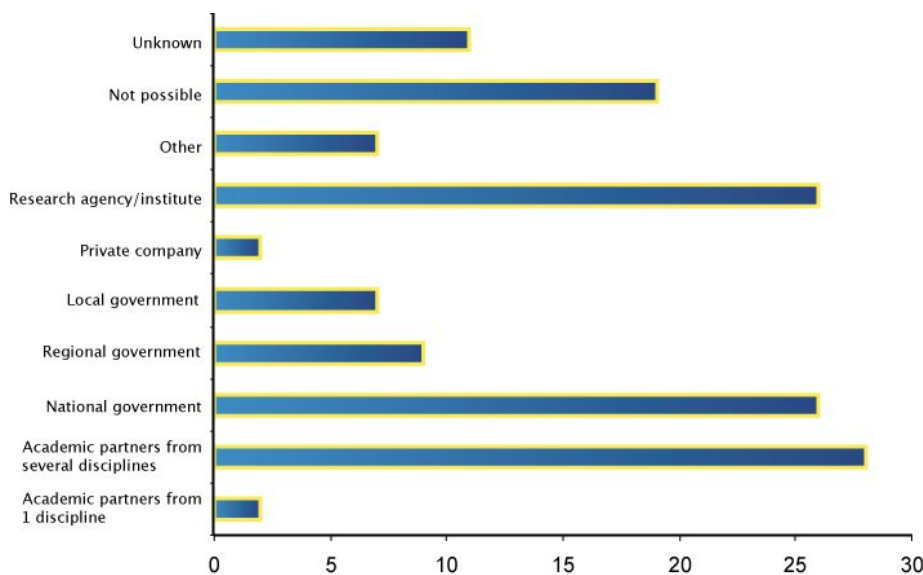


Diagram 6 - Decision making structure throughout the duration of the programme



The diagram shows that the decision-making structure on does not differ substantially from the structure at the start of the programme (Diagram 5). However, quite few programmes are not able to change their focus area(s) throughout the duration of the programme: 19%.

Another important organisational aspect of a research programme is whether the programme is evaluated, and when such an evaluation is conducted (mid-term or at the end of the project).

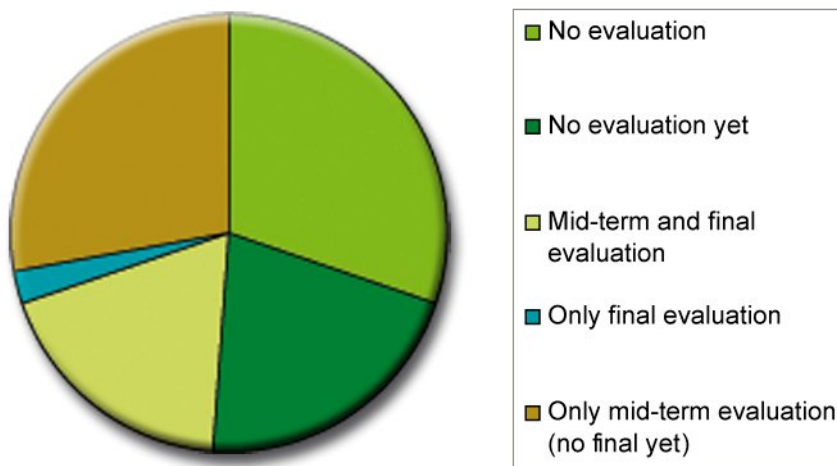


Diagram 7 - Evaluation of the programmes

The diagram shows that a large amount of the programmes (51%) is not evaluated. However, a large part of these non-evaluated programmes is evaluated at a later stage of the programme's duration (21%). A very small percentage is only evaluated at the end of the programme. 30% was evaluated mid-term, but has not yet had a final evaluation (mostly due to the fact that these programmes were still ongoing in August 2007). 19% of the programmes were evaluated both mid-term and at the end of their duration.

7.4 Finance

For each research programme in the database the financial resources and the total budget available for the programme were identified. The latter will not be described in this comparative chapter, since the total budget of a programme can only be understood in the (national) context of a programme. The budgets for the research programmes in the database vary greatly, ranging between a one million euros and several hundreds of millions.

However, the question which financial resources are used for the programmes is more interesting for this statistical comparison. Diagram 8 shows the programmes' resources.

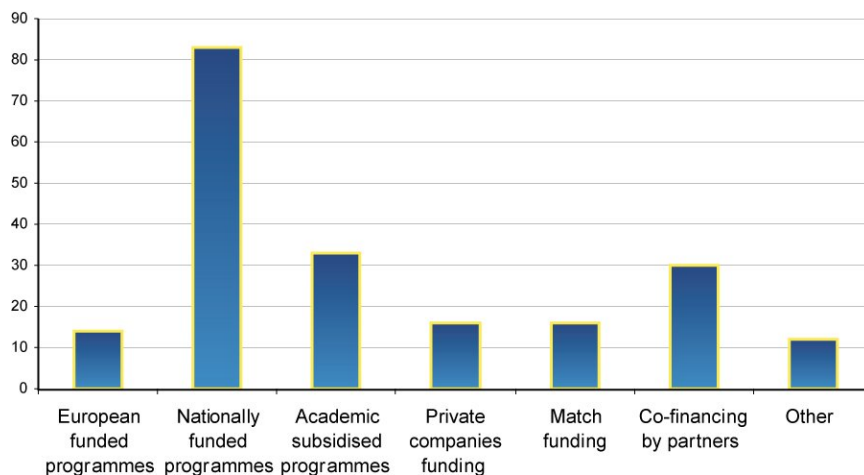


Diagram 8 - Financial resources of the research programmes

Please note that most research programmes in the database have several financial resources. This means that one single programme can receive funding from all financiers mentioned in the diagram above.

83% of the programmes received part of their funding from national research budgets. One third (33%) received funding from academic funding programmes. The diagram also shows that co-financing (30%) is a more common funding stream than match funding (16%) for third parties that are not involved as actors in a programme. Furthermore, it shows that private companies (16%) and European funds (14%) are not commonly used as financial resources for research programmes in the URBAN-Net database.

By comparing Diagram 8 with Diagrams 3, 4, 5, and 6 we obtain a deeper insight into the role of the main actors in urban research programmes:

- In Diagram 3, we can see that **national government** sets up only 22% of the programmes, whereas in Diagram 6, we see that it co-decides on the thematic area of 58% of the programmes. This means that national government might not be the most likely actor to set up a programme, but it certainly is involved in many of the programmes (see also Diagram 4) and it has influence on the thematic scope of a large percentage of the programmes. Besides, national government is funding almost all research programmes (see Diagram 8). National government is thus a very important actor in urban research management, both financially and in terms of influence.
- **Academic partners from several disciplines** are not likely to set up a programme (only 16%). However, they quite often are a consortium partner (60%) and they co-decide on the thematic areas of programmes in 60% of the cases in our database, while they only fund programmes in 33% of the cases. This means that the academic community certainly is one of the major players in urban research management, not

so much financially, but by influencing the decision-making on the thematic areas of the programmes.

- **Research institutes/agencies** are the main actors when it comes to setting up research programmes (36%) and they are involved as consortium members in 53% of the programmes. However, they don't have their own funding stream since research agencies and institutes mostly receive their budgets from national governmental subsidy programmes, which they redistribute to other actors. They have a co-decision role on the thematic area in 48% of the programmes. Research institutes can thus be considered as an important actor in urban research management.

7.5 *Commissioning and assessing research projects*

The following graph indicates how research projects within the programmes in the database were commissioned:

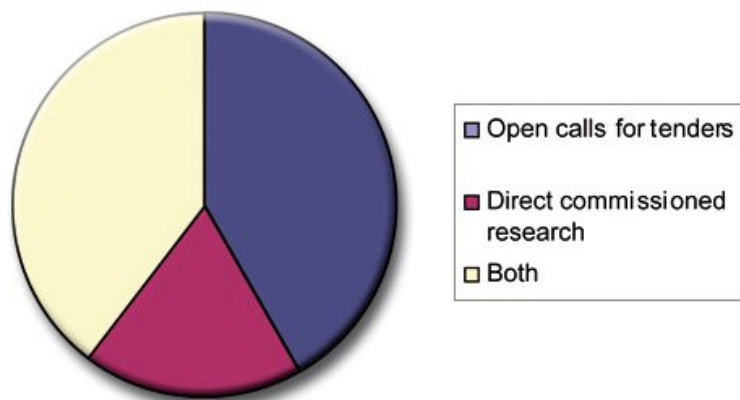


Diagram 9 - Commissioning of research projects

As shown in this diagram, most research programmes (41%) issue open calls to commission research projects. Many programmes publish open calls and directly commission research (39%). Directly commissioned research is a less widespread practice under the research programme in URBAN-NETs database; it is only used in 18% of the programmes.

In case of open calls (or both open calls and direct commissioned research), the programmes set up an assessment procedure for the research applications. The following graph indicates how the assessments were organised:

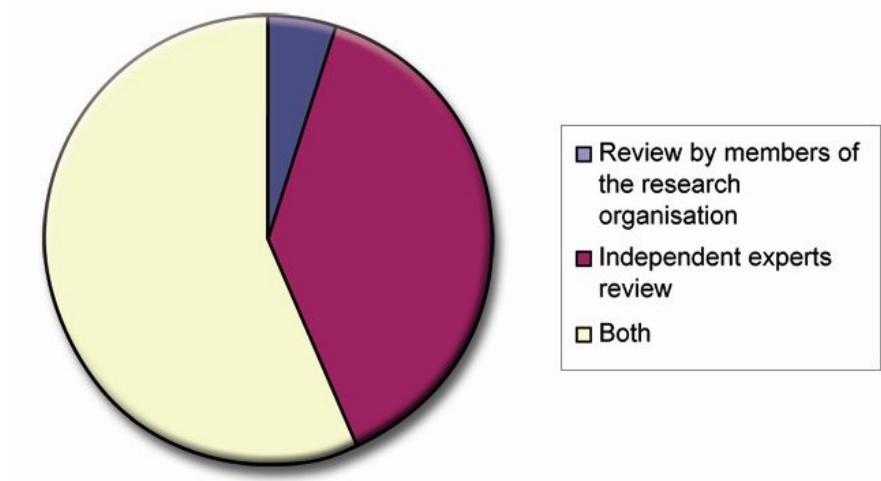


Diagram 10 - Type of assessment procedure

Diagram 10 shows that most programmes (57%) choose for a mixed assessment procedure: both members of the commissioning organisation (internal review type) and independent experts (external review type) examine the projects. Most of these programmes divided tasks between internal reviewers and external reviewers. One way of dividing tasks was mentioned particularly often: internal members of the organisation checked proposals on eligibility, where after external experts reviewed the eligible proposals. Furthermore, the diagram shows that external review is practiced in 38% of the cases, and that only 5% of the programmes choose for an entirely internal review procedure.

7.6 Dissemination

The following diagram shows at which level the dissemination of the programme's progress and results was organised:

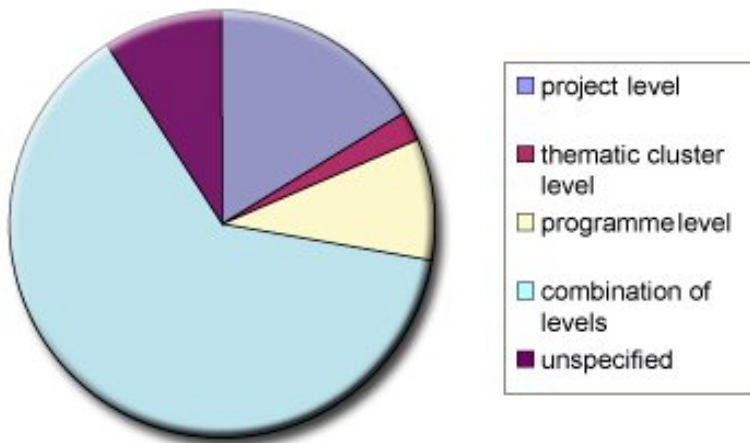


Diagram 11 - Dissemination level



As one can clearly see in the diagram, most programmes (63%) in the database have organised the dissemination of their results at several levels. 16% of the research programmes decentralise dissemination within the projects. Some programmes (9%) organise the entire dissemination process themselves and only a very small percentage of the programmes organise dissemination on the thematic cluster level.

Diagram 12 represents the target groups for dissemination of the research results:

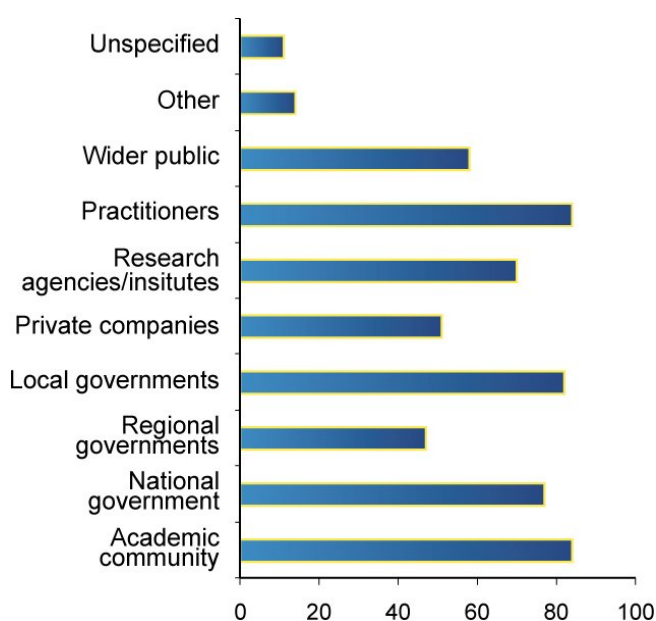


Diagram 12 - Dissemination target groups

Many research programmes focus on all target groups. The exceptions to this rule are regional government and private companies. This explains the lower percentages for these target groups as shown in the graph above. Practitioners and the academic community are particularly often mentioned as dissemination target groups by many of the programmes.

Another group that is mentioned very often is local government. This group is mentioned as a target by 81% of the research programmes. This was unexpected since this actor has only set up 5% of the programmes in the database (see Diagram 3), and it is involved in only 33% of the programmes as consortium member. Besides, in only 16% of the programmes local government was able to co-decide on the thematic area of a programme (see Diagram 6). Apparently, urban research results are very interesting and relevant for local government while their influence on research programmes is very small. This topic will be elaborated in the next chapter.

Finally, each programme's dissemination methods were identified. Diagram 13 indicates the methods used:

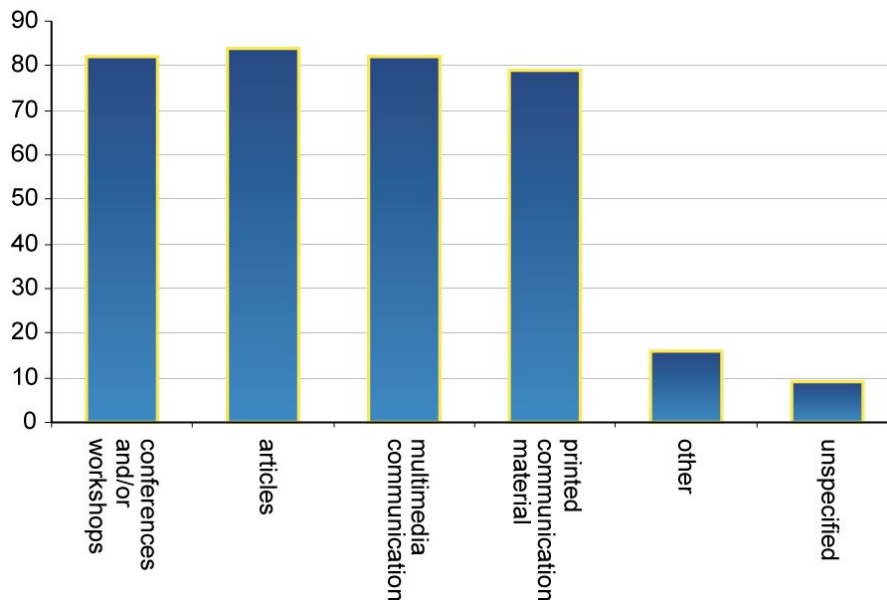


Diagram 13 - Dissemination methods

As the diagram shows, almost all programmes used *all four* possible ways to disseminate research results to their target groups. Some programmes also mentioned other dissemination methods, such as:

- Face-to-events to enable knowledge exchange,
- Lectures and other teaching structures,
- TV documentaries.
- In-company trainings for end-users.

These methods can be regarded as new and innovative methods to disseminate results. Some ten years ago, multimedia communication was regarded upon as innovative. Nowadays, this method is a widespread practice and is even more frequently used than the printed material.

7.7 Impact

The impact of each research programme was explored. Were results valuable to the end-users? Were follow-up programmes organised? Since the majority of the programmes in the URBAN-NET database are not yet finalised, it is not possible to statistically compare these results in this report. Deliverable 2.5, which will analyse these and other programmes later on in the project, will contain a section on the impact of the programmes.



Chapter 8 - Good practices of research programmes

One of the tasks of WP2 is to undertake a subjective analysis of national programmes to establish criteria for success; the so-called good practices of research programmes. This “Initial review and comparison of national urban research programmes” (Deliverable 2.3) identifies but some of these good practices. The “Final review and comparison of national urban research programmes” (Deliverable 2.5) will elaborate this topic further.

At this early stage of the project, the knowledge generated by the project is still too premature to be able to fully compare and analyse the practices of national research programmes throughout Europe. A deeper and more substantial understanding of the current research management practices in Europe is needed for a justified and well-substantiated identification of good practices.

However, the knowledge of the programmes in the URBAN-NET database provided us sufficient information to identify some first good practices. In this chapter, the good practices are divided by their distinct aspects: thematic area, actors, organisation, commissioning and assessing projects, dissemination, and impact. The financial aspects of programmes were kept outside of this analysis, since this particular aspect depends too much on national contexts for a European good practice review.

8.1 Thematic area

As stated in the URBAN-NET Description of Work, continuing competitiveness and sustainable development in European urban areas will depend on the success or failure of cities and towns in adopting holistic approaches to planning and management. Although some aspects of the issues in urban areas can be tackled on a sectoral basis, this is not an adequate approach on its own. Sustainable urban development requires an integrated approach. This is where urban research is relevant: in simultaneously tackling related issues such as urban management and governance, integrated spatial planning, economic wellbeing and competitiveness, social inclusion, and environmental stewardship. However, towns and cities rarely possess the required knowledge or capacity to react or cope with such pressures and impacts in an integrated way, even through their role in such a process will be central. For this reason, research programmes that contribute to the ability of cities to adopt holistic approaches by delivering the required knowledge are defined as good practices.

Such programmes can be found in the URBAN-NET database. Diagram 1 showed that 37% of the programmes focus on one of the cross-cutting dimensions of urban sustainability (the inner circle of the model of urban sustainability). Diagram 2 showed us that even more programmes in the database can be regarded as focused on integrated urban development. There were but a few programmes that could be placed entirely within one single cluster. All programmes that were placed in more than one cluster, or (partly) within the dimensions circle, can be regarded as *good practices* in terms of integrated approach and multi-disciplinarity.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Within this group of good practices, those programmes that are placed entirely in the dimensions circle - or in the inner circle of urban sustainability – can be regarded as *best practices*. These are the programmes focused entirely on the integrated concept of sustainability, taking into account all clusters and all dimensions of urban sustainability. The knowledge generated by these programmes is the most useful contribution to the knowledge urban practitioners and policy makers need in order to cope with challenges in an integrated manner.

However, nothing is said yet about the practical usability and the availability of this knowledge for cities. Regarding the availability of the knowledge, we refer to the section in this chapter that deals with dissemination. Regarding the usability of the generated knowledge, we refer to the section in this chapter that deals with the impact of research programmes.

8.2 Actors

As mentioned in Chapter 7, many different actors are involved in the research programmes in the URBAN-NET database, of which the most important and powerful actors are national governments, academic partners and research agencies/institutes.

In a much smaller number of programmes, the local government organised the set up of the programme or acted as a consortium member. Nevertheless, the involvement of local government can be regarded as good practice since local government is the most important end-user of the knowledge generated in the programme. Local governments' involvement secures the practical usability and availability of the generated knowledge. It can set the standards to which the commissioned projects should comply with in order to be useable for practitioners and local policy-makers. Besides, their involvement automatically implies direct dissemination and makes the knowledge generated promptly available on the local level, especially when the local government is a (financial and legal) co-owner of the programme's outcomes.

We should ,however, mention here that programmes that do not involve local government actors, can also generate practical knowledge that is available and usable for local decision makers and practitioners.

This good practice is closely linked to the question which actors can decide on the focus of a programme. Please refer to the section below for more information about this topic.

8.3 Organisation

Programmes often have a duration of at least five years. During these years, new developments can take place, such as a changing political context, new research needs from local practitioners, altered insights and theoretic frameworks in the academic community, etc. It can therefore be considered as good practice for a research programme to incorporate a certain degree of flexibility regarding the focus area(s) and research question(s).



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Many programmes in the database have indeed the possibility to change the programme's focus throughout the duration of the project. Most programmes leave such a decision to the consortium of partners (or a body in which these partners are represented, such as a programme committee). Some of the programmes mentioned specific conditions for a shift in focus. These should be mentioned here as good practices:

- In the Swedish research programmes, an adjustment in the focus area or in the research questions of a programme is possible when an evaluation (often a mid-term evaluation) has proved that a change could be desirable or necessary for a successful further implementation of the programme.
- In the UK, several research programmes organise consultation sessions with stakeholders in which new relevant areas of research can be identified. These new areas can then be incorporated in the programme's focus areas.

This is closely linked to a second organisational good practice that concerns the local government as co-decision maker. As explained in the sections above, local government is an important end-user of the knowledge generated by the research programmes. To ensure that a programme's focus areas are tailored to the needs of this specific group, it is advisable to include this actor in the co-decision structure for the identification of the focus area(s) of a programme.

The same accounts for the flexibility of a programme to adapt to specific challenges of urban practitioners. If a programme includes local government officials in the decision-making structure that is able to modify the programme throughout its duration, it will more likely succeed in generating knowledge that is required for coping with these specific challenges. This is also the case when programmes develop other methods to adapt their focus areas to the needs of practitioners, like in some UK based programmes that organised stakeholder consultations.

8.4 Commissioning and assessing projects

Regarding the commissioning and assessment of research projects within a research programme, no particular good practices can be identified for urban research. Urban research does not require any specific methods or criteria.

However, one specific practice should be mentioned here as a good practice in urban research funding. In Scotland, the Scottish Community Action Research Fund (SCARF) gives community groups support to improve their skills and confidence to carry out their own research. The fund helps them to plan a project, collect information and understand it, use the information, and learn from the experience. SCARF thus provides funding for research by community organisations in order to help communities get actively involved in decisions that affect them and to improve their circumstances.

This is the only research programme in the URBAN-NET database in which community groups are eligible for funding. The other programmes only fund universities or research institutes. We can regard SCARF as good practice for its innovative and demand-driven approach in which grass-roots level applicants carry out their own research.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



8.5 Dissemination

As mentioned in section 7.6, the dissemination methods and practices of the research programmes in the URBAN-NET are rather similar. Conferences/workshops, articles, multimedia communication, and printed communication material such as leaflets are all common practices among the current research programmes in Europe. Nowadays, multimedia communication (that includes web based dissemination) can be considered as traditional as the other above-mentioned dissemination methods are.

Some programmes developed other dissemination methods, parallel to the ones mentioned above. One of these can be regarded in particular as a good practice: Organising lectures or other teaching structures and in-company trainings for end-users. This method is a very direct form of dissemination. Besides, this method forces the programme managers or researchers that are training the end-users (in this case mostly local government officials) to reformulate the outcomes of the programme in practical and usable terms.

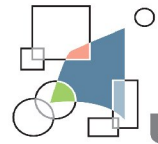
8.6 Impact

Regarding the usability of the gathered knowledge for policy makers and practitioners in cities, it must be said that many of the programmes in the database are not yet finalised. Therefore, it is hard to identify the impact a programme has made. However, below are some programmes that have been (at least partly) finalised and that can be regarded as good practice in terms of practical usability. These programmes all developed innovative ways to ensure the practical usability of their knowledge:

- The programme “Territorial policies and urban sustainability” helped practitioners, working for local governments, to discover different and new methodologies for urban sustainability planning.
- The programme “The city for all” had very valuable outcomes for practitioners since it changed the vision on urban polarization, and introduced new possibilities for policy-makers by making clear the changing relationships between public utilities and users.
- The programme “Sustainable Housing Transformations” was at the forefront of advising local and national government. A large number of housing agencies received the required knowledge in the field of strategic management in relation to efficiency and profitability from this programme.
- The “Amtrans: Urbanism, spatial planning, construction and transports” programme resulted in some very practical solutions for urban issues, such as: solutions for preservation of the cultural and urban heritage; solutions and models of rehabilitation and territorial development; specific information systems and data bases on spatial data, etc.
- The “Urban Transport and Mobility” programme generated applied knowledge for decision-makers in the field of urban and regional traffic. The funded projects dealt with typical factual issues, whose solution or clarification were to be implemented in different cities and regions.
- The “Scottish Community Action Research Fund” has made a real difference for community organisations since these organisations have developed their skills and became more confident in gathering and understanding information; acquired good



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



URBAN-NET

information to support their activities; and are more able to present their concerns, influence policy and practice, meet their own needs, and receive funding.



Chapter 9 - Future research and gaps in current research programmes

TÜV-Rheinland Consulting GmbH (WP3 Leader) has identified a list of future urban trends and challenges in the preparation phase of common research activities. This list was identified through researching existing studies, reports and political recommendations.

The list of future urban trends and challenges relevant for URBAN-NET is as follows:

- a) Demographic change and its opportunities and consequences for cities,
- b) Urban futures and adapting cities to globalisation,
- c) Shrinking cities,
- d) Social stability and physical upgrading in deprived neighbourhoods,
- e) Migration as a challenge and opportunity,
- f) Creating and ensuring high quality public spaces,
- g) Efficient and affordable urban transport and mobility,
- h) Urban sprawl, compact city and re-use of derelict land,
- i) Urban design, enlargement, renewal and restructuring,
- j) Climate change and its opportunities and consequences,
- k) Energy efficient cities and infrastructure management,
- l) Strengthening cities as commercial locations with a focus on centralised supply areas,
- m) Giving cities a face - identity and culture of cities,
- n) Preservation of old City and city tourism as an economic factor,
- o) Integrated urban management through multi-sector and multi-actor governance.

In this chapter, these future urban trends and challenges were compared and contrasted with the research programmes from the URBAN-NET database to map what work has already been done in these areas. Are the future trends and challenges already being researched in programmes throughout Europe? If so, which research programmes in Europe deal with these issues? And what are the aims and research questions of these programmes?

a) Demographic change and its opportunities and consequences for cities

None of the research programmes in the URBAN-NET database deals with the issue of demographic change or ageing specifically. However, some research programmes in the database include projects on related issues such as amenities for elderly people or a focus on related areas such as social inclusion or housing and infrastructure for the ageing population.

- The research programme “Experimental Housing and Urban Development” from Germany is most closely related to the issue of demographic change. The aim is to fund innovative plans and measures relating to important urban development and residential policy issues. Its research is focused on questions concerning social



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



integration, equal access to housing and quality of life, quarters for families and elderly people, strengthening of the local economy and generating new jobs on the local level, cost and quality-conscious building, new housing and family living within the city.

b) Urban futures and adapting cities to globalisation

This research area is very future oriented. It is a subject that receives much attention in some European countries. The programmes from the URBAN-NET database linked to this theme are mentioned below:

- “The Research for Sustainable Development of Tomorrow’s Megacities Programme” in Germany focuses on the rapidly growing large cities – the ‘megacities of tomorrow’ – in which sustainability choices must be made while a knowledge base is often still missing. It aims at the development and implementation of exemplary solution-oriented and integrated planning and management concepts for sustainable city development.
- “Building and Housing in the 21st Century” is a research programme in Germany that aims to support the development of new basic orientations in the development and testing of new approaches and models for living in cities and regions. It also seeks to help strengthen the competitiveness of the construction sector. Housing means the complex reality of the build environment, in which social structures and conflicts, individual lifestyles and social needs as well as consumption patterns and cultural preferences emerge. As a result of global development and local constraints a search for new orientations should be considered. Integrated decision-making and action require different types of knowledge and new competencies.
- “Network Cities” in the Netherlands aims at integrating spatial, social, economic, cultural and policy aspects in new concepts of spatial planning. The ‘Network City’ concept, triggered by the generalization of information and communications technologies (ICT) use and applications in urban life, challenges the paradigm of urbanism and architecture. The identification and formulation of new planning and design tasks, research by design aimed at possible futures, and the development of methods and techniques as well as planning instruments, especially for the ex ante en ex post evaluation of urban projects (processes and forms), are considered the most important research tasks of this programme.
- “Vitality, Legitimacy and Multiplicity” is a research programme from the Netherlands that focuses on transition processes in the emerging network society. It proceeds on the basis of fifteen years of research on informatisation in the public sector, but is also broadening its focus to the impact of other significant developments. These include globalisation and Europeanisation, the rise of multicultural societies, and the emergence of new governance systems. The research programme studies these developments at three different, but mutually dependent, levels of the public sector: the state, the city, and the third sector.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



c) Shrinking cities

None of the research programmes in the current database is focused on shrinking cities.

d) Social stability and physical upgrading in deprived neighbourhoods

Regeneration and renewal is a research area that receives much attention from European research managers. However, there are just a couple of research programmes focused on deprived neighbourhoods in particular, amongst which two are in the current URBAN-NET database:

- The Urban Renewal and Housing research programme from the Netherlands is concerned with the way in which residential districts function and change over time. The broad social objective of the research programme is to provide insights which can contribute to a more sustainable approach to neighbourhood restructuring, and to the preclusion of physical and social deterioration elsewhere. The Urban Renewal and Housing research programme examines these processes within three themes: a) Urban renewal, b) Social and spatial integration in residential neighbourhoods and c) The organization of urban renewal.
- a) The programme Corpovenista from the Netherlands focuses on questions like: How can sustainability and health aspects of dwellings be improved? Which methods can stimulate integrated renewal and regeneration of cities? What are the social implications of urban restructuring and forced relocation? Which economic, social-cultural and technical developments are shown in urban renewal in the Netherlands and how can these influence the policies of the housing associations? This programme was set up in close collaboration with several housing associations to ensure the practical usability of the results.

e) Migration as a challenge and an opportunity

This theme is researched in single projects within several of the research programmes in the URBAN-NET database, but there are only one research programme that is entirely dedicated to researching migration:

- “Social cohesion” is a Dutch programme that aims to gain more knowledge and insights into the changes in the cohesion of Dutch society and to get policy recommendations out of the results of the programme. The programme consists of two component programmes: the Dutch Multicultural and Pluriform Society and Social Participation, Commitment and Bonding. The programme focuses on migration and its consequences for social cohesion.

f) Creating and ensuring high quality public spaces

Only two research programmes in the URBAN-NET database deal with the issue of public space:



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



- “Sustainable Sofia” from Bulgaria was a research programme that aimed to gather and prepare possible solutions for preserving and re-cultivating the so-called Sofia Ecozone (a neglected public space area in Sofia). It focused on rehabilitation measures and protective measures for this zone (i.e. recreation and sports zones).
- “Public space” from Sweden is a programme that studies urban public spaces from various aspects and by interdisciplinary research. Research questions include: How is the physical environment including the microclimate related to the use and perception of public spaces? How do children use the urban outdoor environment? How can public space encourage or discourage social integration? What is the role of public space in polycentric cities?

g) Creating and ensuring Urban Transport and Mobility

In the current database, three research programmes are related to the area of transport and mobility:

- The Programme “Mobility and urban territories” from France evolves around the following research questions: How does the town reorganise its governance in relation to the inhabitants’ mobility? How to balance the positive aspects of mobility (autonomy, economic progress) and the negative features (congestion, inequalities)? Is it possible to have an integrated urban vision of mobility?
- “The Urban Transport and Mobility” programme from Germany has the main objective to generate applied knowledge for decision-makers within the field of Urban and regional traffic. Research areas and topics were developed by a complex coordination and communication process, in which the Federal States as well as public organisations of local authorities were involved. The research program is very closely connected with the introduction of a law called “Gemeindeverkehrsfinanzierungsgesetz”, which is the legal and financial basis for funding local roads and public transport in Germany.
- The Bulgarian National Research Programme for National Transport Systems (BNSDI) finances projects that research means to administer and control transport and infrastructure, as well as means to receive adequate information on the condition of the national road system. By integrating information from satellite images with geodetic surveying of the territory the projects will provide accurate information and precise geodata, related to any single geographical point.

h) Urban sprawl, compact city and re-use of derelict land

Land use is a theme that is not much represented in the URBAN-NET database so far. There is only one programme that is concentrated on land use issues:

- The German programme “Research for the reduction of land consumption and for promoting sustainable land management” grants the development and testing of innovative concepts for the reduction of land consumption to achieve a multitude of goals such as the protection of the environment and nature, economical growth,



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



socially balanced housing, architectural urban quality, and mobility. The programme's research questions include: How to improve methods and evaluation methodology for sustainable land management and land recycling? How to develop concepts or models for innovative land management in selected regions that have different development conditions?

i) Urban design, enlargement, renewal and restructuring

Besides the two programmes mentioned above under the “Social stability and physical upgrading in deprived neighbourhoods” theme, there is no other research programme in the URBAN-NET database linked to this theme.

j) Climate change and its opportunities and consequences for cities

Many countries have research programmes on the issue of climate change. Only a few have research programmes that research the consequences of climate change on cities and urban life:

- “The Mener Programme” from Romania is focused on the consequences of climate change (and other environmental factors) on the economic development of Romanian cities. Its research projects focus on risk management, renewable energies, nuclear energy and mineral resources.
- “Engineering Cities” is a programme from the UK that aims to develop a city-scale assessment capacity tool that simulates the evolution of climate impacts and emissions over the 21st century. The tool will be applied for urban policy-makers, planners, engineers and other stakeholders to compare alternative adaptation and mitigation strategies and to consider how cities grow whilst reducing emissions and vulnerability to climate change.
- “Building Knowledge for a Changing Climate” is also a programme from the UK. It has a portfolio of research projects looking at how climate change will affect aspects of the built environment, transport and utilities. Research projects cover areas ranging from risk management to the impact of climate change on energy supplies, land use and historic buildings. The different projects cover different geographical scales.

k) Energy efficient cities and infrastructure management

Although energy efficient building and infrastructure networks are themes that are touched upon by more research programmes in the database, there is only one programme that focuses particularly on energy efficient building:

- “Sustainable Housing Transformations” is a research programme in the Netherlands that aims to contribute to policy, regulations and tools which guarantee the quality of newly built and existing housing stock in terms of safety, health, sustainability, energy



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



consumption, environment, accessibility and comfort. The research programme is structured around three themes: 1.) Sustainable and Healthy Housing; 2.) Strategic Housing Stock Policy and Technical Management; and 3.) Building Regulations and Quality Assurance.

l) Strengthening cities as commercial locations with a focus on centralised supply areas

As we have concluded in Chapter 7.1, only a few programmes in URBAN-NET's database have an economic orientation. Two programmes in the database however, research the function of cities as centres of commercial activities:

- “Economic evolution in space” is a Dutch research programme built on the theory of evolutionary economics, which is a new field of research in economics. The aim of this programme is to work out, both conceptually and empirically, the outlines of what might be called an evolutionary economic geography approach. It does so by focusing on three themes: 1) Spatial evolution of industries/technologies; 2) Spatial evolution of production chains and networks/innovation systems; and 3) Evolution of urban economies.
- “Cities: Competitiveness and Cohesion” is a UK based programme. The programme aims to improve understanding of how cities develop and mobilise distinctive economic assets to secure competitive advantage, and how these processes impact upon and are influenced by social cohesion and environmental quality. The programme identifies urban assets, externalities, market processes and structures which help firms, other institutions and communities to attain competitive advantage.

m) Giving cities a face – Identity and Culture of cities

Only one of the national programmes in the database deals with urban culture:

- “The Urbanization & Urban Culture programme” from the Netherlands aims at stimulating, reinforcing and co-ordinating research into new visions of the city, urban development, and urban culture. The underlying idea is that urban societies – in contrast to the agrarian countryside – are perpetually in motion due to ever changing combinations of internal and external socio-economic facts, cultural representations, and physical-morphological qualities influencing one another in time and space. Research projects are clustered in three thematic clusters: 1) urban patterns of economic dynamism and social mobility; 2) urbanism, urban self-image, and urban representation; and 3) the public nature of cities and the public domain.

n) Preservation of old city and city tourism as an economic factor

None of the programmes in the database are particularly focused on this issue.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



o) Integrated urban management through multi-sector and multi-actor governance

Many of the research programmes in the URBAN-NET database focus on the 'integrated approach' of urban sustainability (see also Chapter 7.1). However, only a few focus particularly on urban management through multi-sector and multi-actor governance. Their objectives and research questions are described shortly below:

- The programme "Territorial policies and urban sustainability" from France analyses how the notion of sustainable development is understood by local, regional, national actors of territorial policies. Important research questions are: Are public environmental policies lessening territorial inequalities or worsening them? How to evaluate the ability of territorial institutions to respect intergenerational and territorial equity, at different scales in space and time? General results of the programme included the following answers to the research questions; there is a necessity to give each locality and each level a specific content of sustainable development, elaborated by local partners with general guidelines to follow. Sustainable development has replaced local economic development, with more concerns about social and environmental sustainability in the strategic issues for local authorities.
- "The Urban Innovation Programme" from the Netherlands aims to focus on advance the problem-solving capacities of cities through innovation of current modes of thought, institutions and competences. The programme seeks answers and effective solutions to problems in cities. In doing so it is not only important to know what works but also why something works. The programme addresses urban problems and issues as well as the different levels of government's roles in these challenges. The programme wants to increase and improve the production and dissemination of knowledge about urban issues, improve the practical implementation in policies of scientifically attained insights, and create networks between scientists and the workers on the ground.
- "Urban systems and territorial governance" from the Netherlands aims to identify the factors that contribute to a sustainable urban environment with an increasingly developing economy and where people want to live, work and relax, and to formulate proposals for legitimate, effective and efficient spatial policy. The programme focuses on the changing urban structures, in particular the emergence of metropolitan structures (network cities, urban networks), and the shifts in relations and roles of different actors and agencies involved in spatial policy.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



ANNEX I

URBAN-NET Project Consortium Partners

Scotland (and UK); SNIFFER (Scotland Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research) funds and manages research programmes on behalf of its members (Scottish Government; Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland); Scottish Natural Heritage; and Forestry Commission) and other stakeholders. SNIFFER is the URBAN-NET project Coordinator.

The Netherlands; The Nicis Institute is an independent foundation created jointly by 31 cities and nine Ministries in the Netherlands involved in the Dutch urban policy programme.

Germany; TRC or TÜV-Rheinland Consulting GmbH, is the partner from Germany. Projektträger Mobilität und Verkehr, Bauen und Wohnen (PT MVBW) is part of the research management division (Zentralbereich Forschungsmanagement) within TRC.

France; MTETM (Ministère de Transport, de l'Équipement, du Tourisme et de la Mer) the French Government Ministry has been the leading French administration for funding urban research since 1970.

Sweden; FORMAS (the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning) is a governmental research-funding agency with national responsibility, funded by the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Industry, Employment and Communications.

The Netherlands; SenterNovem (Netherlands Agency for Innovation and sustainable Development) promotes knowledge of innovation, energy, climate, the environment and living for Dutch industry.

Spain; MVIV (Ministerio de Vivienda) the Housing Ministry of Spain has the national competence at the national level to conduct urban research programmes in Spain.

ASDE (Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration) of Bulgaria is an official partner to the Minister of State Administration.

Romania; IPA (Romanian national institute for research and development, design, execution, and service for automation and IT) manages the funds of the Ministry of Education and Research.

Cyprus; RPF (Research Promotion foundation of Cyprus) is the competent authority responsible for the development, implementation and management of all national research programmes in the Republic of Cyprus.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



Austria; The bmwf (Ministry Science and Research of Austria) is the Austrian government institution responsible for educational issues, reform of the university system, research policy and scientific research programmes, as well as for the larger thematic area of cultural heritage.

Turkey; TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) is the central organisation in charge of promoting, organising and coordinating scientific research and technological development in various fields of natural sciences in line with the national economic development targets.

Scotland; the Scottish Government develops policies and advises Scottish Ministers in the areas of Health and Wellbeing, Rural Affairs and Environment, Justice and Communities, Finance and Sustainable Growth, and Education and Lifelong Learning.

UN-HABITAT is the Secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. It focuses on the coordination of international effort towards the attainment of the twin goals of 'adequate shelter for all' and 'sustainable human settlements development in an urbanising world'.

Portugal; FCT (the Foundation for Science and Technology) is Portugal's main funding agency for research. It has the status of a public organisation with administrative and financial autonomy, under the aegis of the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education.

Austria; UBA-A, (Federal Environment Agency of Austria) supports the bmwf partner. Its role in URBAN-NET will be to identify and analyse national research programmes in Austria and to coordinate national input to the development and funding of common calls for research. Ultimate decisions about the direction and funding of research calls will be taken on behalf of Austria by bmwf.



ANNEX II

List of Abbreviations Used

A

AAL	Architects Association of Lithuania
AMTRANS	
ANR	French Nation Agency for Research
APVV	Slovak Research and Development Agency
ARC	Austrian Research Centres
ASC	UK Academy for Sustainable Communities
ASDE	Bulgarian Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration
ASRO	Belgian Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning

B

BKCC	UK Building Knowledge for a Changing Climate
BMBF	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
BMFSFJ	German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
bmlfuw	Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
BMVBS	
bmvit	Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology
bmwf	Austrian Ministry of Science and Research
BNSDI	Bulgarian National Research Programme for National Transport Systems

C

CERUM	Swedish Centre for Regional Science
CESIS	<i>Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social</i> , Portugal
CNR	
CNRS	French National Centre for Scientific Research
COST	European cooperation instrument in the field of scientific and technical research
CPDT	<i>Conférence Permanente du Développement Territorial</i> , Standing Conference on Territorial Development, Walloon Region, Belgium
CSIC	<i>Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas</i> , Spanish research institute
CSTB	French institute for urban research (Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment)

D

D4E	French Department of Economic Studies and Environmental Assessment
DFLRI	Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute
DoELG	Irish Department of the Environment and Local Government
DRAST	French Administration of Research, Scientific and Technical Affairs

E

EPA	Irish Environment Protection Agency
EPSRC	UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
ERA	European Research Area
ERTDI	Irish governmental programme for Environmental Research, Technological Development and Innovation
ERA-NET	European Research Area Networks



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



URBAN-NET

ESF	European Social Fund
ESRC	UK Economic and Social Research Council
EU	European Union
EUREKA	Pan-European network for market-oriented, industrial R&D
ExWoSt	German experimental Housing and Urban Development research programme
F	
FCT	Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology
FEEM	<i>Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei</i> , Italian private research foundation
FNR	Luxembourg National Research Fund
FOPS	German Urban Mobility and Transport research programme
FORMAS	Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning
FORNE	Austrian research initiative for sustainable development
FP5 or 5FP	EU Fifth Framework Programme
FP6 or 6FP	EU Sixth Framework Programme
FP7 or 7FP	EU Seventh Framework Programme
FP 2003 - 2006	
G	
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSRT	Greek General Secretariat for Research and Technology
I	
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEG	<i>Instituto de Economia y Geografia</i> , Spanish CSIC institute
INTAS	International Association for the promotion of co-operation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union (NIS)
INSPIRE	Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe
INTERREG IIb	European Community initiative to support the regions on the inner and outer borders of the Union to cope with difficulties caused by their geo-specific situation
IPA	Romanian National Institute for Research and Development, Design, Execution, and Services for Automation and IT
IT	Information Technology
K	
KBN	Polish State Committee for Scientific Research
KCGS	Former name NICIS Institute
KTH	Stockholm University of Technology, Sweden
L	
<i>Länder</i>	German federal states
LTH	Lund University of Technology, Sweden
LuTH	Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
M	
MCST	Malta Council for Science & Technology
MER	Romanian Ministry of Education and Research
METU	Middle East Technical University
MORO	BMVBS demonstration projects on spatial planning
MRI	Hungarian Metropolitan Research Institute
MSRIT	Polish Ministry of Scientific Research and Information Technology
MTA	Hungarian Academy of Sciences



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



MTETM	<i>Ministère de Transport, de l'Équipement, du Tourisme et de la Mer, France</i>
MVIV	<i>Ministerio de Vivienda, Spain</i>
N	
NASR	Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research
NERC	UK Natural Environment Research Council
NERI	Danish National Environmental Research Institute
NETHUR	Netherlands Graduate School for Housing and Urban Reserach
NFP	Polish National Framework Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NICIS Institute	Dutch Knowledge Centre for Major Towns and Cities
NIS	New Independent States of the former Soviet Union
NWO	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
O	
ÖAW	Austrian Academy of Science
OeNB	Jubilee Fund of the Austrian National Bank
OSA	
OTB	Research Institute, Delft University, Netherlands
P	
PFEIL 05	Research programme (2002-2005) from bmlfuw
PFEIL 10	Research programme (2006-2010) from bmlfuw, continuation of PFEIL 05
PROs	Public Research Organisations
ProVISION	Austrian national research programme, part of FORNE
PT MVBW	<i>Projekträger Mobilität und Verkehr, Bauen und Wohnen, Germany</i>
PUCA	French Plan Urbanisme Construction Architecture
R	
R&D	Research & Development
R&D&I	Research, Development and Technological Innovation
REFINA	German Programme Research for the Reduction of Land Consumption and fro Sustainable Land Management
R&I	Research & Innovation
RPF	Cypriot Research Promotion Foundation
RTOs	Research and Technology Organisations
S	
SBi	Danish Building and Urban Research Institute
SCARF	Scottish Community Action Research Fund
SC IPA SA	Romanian private research institute
SG	The Scottish Government
SenterNovem	Netherlands Agency for Innovation and Sustainable Development
SNIFFER	Scotland Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research
SRP	Service de la Recherche et de la Prospective
STIP	Dutch Urban Innovation Programme
STRIVE	EPA funding programme Science, Technology, Research & Innovation for the Environment
SUE1	UK Sustainable Urban Environment Programme 1
SUE2	UK Sustainable Urban Environment Programme 2
T	
TEPAV	Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey
TUBA	Turkish Academy of Sciences



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



TÜBITAK	Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
TRC	TÜV-Rheinland Consulting GmbH, Germany
U	
UBA-A	Austrian Federal Environment Agency of Austria
UCD	University College Dublin
UK	United Kingdom
UKCIP	UK Climate Impacts Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
U-NEXUS	Danish University-Network Exchange on Urban Sustainability
URBAN-NET	Urban ERA-NET – Coordination of the funding of Urban Research in Europe
URENIO	Greek Urban and Regional Innovation Research Unit
URGENT	UK Urban Regeneration and the Environment Programme
V	
VÁTI	Hungarian Non-Profit Company for Regional Development and Town Planning
W	
WP2	Work Package 2 of the URBAN-NET project