

URBAN-NET

Deliverable 3.3

“Proceedings of Stakeholder Workshop 2: ‘Future research areas on Urban Sustainability in Europe ’”

Prepared by TÜV Rheinland Consulting GmbH
(Leaders of work package 3)
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All workshop presentations are available at

<http://urban-net.org/eventsandconferences/stakeholderworkshop2/index.html>

1 General description

Workshop title: Future research areas on Urban Sustainability in Europe
Date: June 10 and 11, 2008
Venue: Sprachschule, Kastanienallee 82, Berlin, Germany

The URBAN-NET workshop in Berlin brought together 60 experts from URBAN-NET's 13 European partner countries and UN-Habitat. Four different parallel work groups focused on themes that had been previously prioritised through a voting process that had been run in each URBAN-NET country. The experts discussed, developed and prioritized future research interests and needs within the field of urban sustainability which are of relevance for the European and trans-national level that might be the subject of joint research programmes.

This Workshop was prepared and organized by TÜV Rheinland Consulting GmbH

2 Background to the Workshop

A central aim of URBAN-NET is to structure and coordinate research activities on urban sustainable development. To achieve this a "Trans-national / European Research Framework in the field of Urban Sustainability" will be developed. This framework will be generated through a differentiated process that puts strong emphasis on the comprehensive involvement of relevant stakeholders. The workshop was part of a *Stakeholder Engagement Process* in which valuable feedback and recommendations had been given already. That means the results of the workshop will directly influence future research activities based on this framework which will be a concrete contribution of URBAN-NET network.

After clustering the field of Urban Sustainability into 15 action and research areas, which were described briefly and in which an idea of possible future research needs was given (see the discussion and input paper, of Deliverable 3.2 available from the project), the URBAN-NET partners organised national consultation processes in order to define topical priorities. Many experts and stakeholders in the involved countries were asked for their preferences as well as for feedback and recommendations on the discussion paper. The sum of these national priorities has resulted in the following sequence of future research areas as well as in an input paper for the workshop (Annex 1, Appendix 4):

Selected themes chosen for prioritized future research needs (with aggregated votes):

1. Urban sprawl or compact city – integrated re-use of land, (14.2 points)
2. Integrated urban management through multi-sector/-actor governance, (13.3 points)
3. Climate change and ecological risk management, (11.7 points)
4. Health, quality of life and public spaces, (10.3 points)

Other important but not chosen research topics:

5. Proximity, access, transport and mobility, (9.8 points)
6. Social stability and deprived neighbourhoods, (9.1 points)
7. Energy efficiency and infrastructure management, (8.7 points)
8. Competitive urban futures and adaptation to globalisation, (7.3 points)
9. Environmental management and social behaviour, (7.1 points)
10. Demographic change - opportunities and consequences for cities, (7.0 points)
11. Migration and diversity as a challenge and an opportunity, (6.6 points)

12. Heritage, identity, culture, tourism and branding, (4.4 points)
13. Shrinking Cities, (4.0 points)
14. Commercial locations and centralised supply areas, (3.2 points)
15. Housing and urban design in highly differentiated cities, (3.0 points)

3 Objectives and prime tasks of the event

The overall ambition of the workshop was to structure prioritised thematic urban development areas and formulate related research questions and ideas for future research at European level.

The prime tasks were to

- structure each pre-selected priority research area and further deepen the knowledge in a thematic group
- reflect trends, state-of-the-art on the priority research areas
- agree on future needs for best-practice development
- derive research themes as well as research questions
- formulate concrete recommendations to URBAN-NET's future actions in research cooperation
- give advice how trans-disciplinary research can be facilitated.

4 Overview of the programme

The work shop was designed around 4 parallel working groups that were carried out on the 4 priority research areas in a parallel way. They were structured by identical sessions in order to generate comparable results. The turn of the sessions has been designed in a logical and interrelated way (see below).

After a brief introduction on the background of URBAN-NET and a short explanation of the priority research areas all participants started working in one of these in their respective working group. In each working group a moderator and a mentor (assistant) led the process.

In this 4 working groups the participants of the work shops were asked to discuss, cluster and find answers on the following questions:

Session A: Appraisal of Sustainability in Urban Europe

- What are the core problems and challenges in the given thematic area?

Session B: Visions for Sustainable Cities

- What visions of the future are preferable?

Session C: Making the Vision happen

- In which fields of action do you see additional need for activities?
- What kind of policy measures are currently missing?

Session D: How can Research facilitate Urban Sustainability

- What are the knowledge gaps in the identified action fields? What are relevant research questions?
- Recommended ideas for types of future research at European level and concrete actions (to be carried out by URBAN-NET or other organisations)
- How can the implementation of research results be improved?

At the end of each session the results were represented briefly to all participants followed by a short plenary discussion.

The detailed programme is attached to this document (see annex 1, Appendix1).

5 Participants

The participants of the workshop had been nominated by national URBAN-NET partners and the URBAN-NET management group. They were selected because of their strong relationship to pre-selected policy and research areas and they have following backgrounds:

- Local/regional political or administrative decision makers
- Researcher: from research institutes and universities
- Net-worker and multiplier: urban networks, professional umbrella associations and NGOs
- Research and programme manager from URBAN-NET partner countries.

A full list of the attendants is attached to this document (see Annex 1, Appendix 1).

6 Results from the topical sub-sessions

The following four sections provide summarised notes of the written outputs and discussions held in each of the working groups. These notes will form the basis of the next step in the overall process to develop a European research framework (project deliverable 3.4). It is expected that linkages to certain aspects of all the 15 original research areas will be an important part of this document.

6.1 Urban sprawl or compact city – integrated re-use of land

Session A: Appraisal of Sustainability in Urban Europe

- *What are the core problems and challenges in the given thematic area?*
 - Land is a limited and a non renewable resource which is asked for different and conflicting uses.
 - Home-ownership culturally means single-housing and building demand rise even by a stagnating population
 - Urban sprawl is often assumed to generate energy and transportation problems and affecting biodiversity. The overwhelming suburban housing model faces a paradox: the search for living in a green environment slowly makes Nature disappear.
 - The mutual interrelated character and its dependencies of land use developments and urban structures make it difficult to identify effective control and influence fields.
 1. Land use cycle as well as not building sites
(consumption, deconstruction, re-use, inner-city development, open space, landscape)
 2. Built Environment
(density, heritage, infrastructure, persistence of buildings)
 3. Mobility
(cost, car dependency, driving force as well as result, raising energy prices)
 4. Social developments and consequences
(affordable housing, segregation / isolation, diversity of urban life, neighbourhood control, financial interests and possibilities of home owners / renters)
 5. Ecological Aspects
(impact on biodiversity, consumption of farmland, destruction of landscape)
 6. Mechanism of Sprawl
(specific context, EU-Directives, sectoral thinking and responsibilities, missing instruments, land cycle management and legislative rules, monitoring system)
 - Compact City seems to be the dream of professionals and planners; but sprawl is the reality which has to be considered and understood in terms of inhabitant needs and market forces. By reflecting about “urban sprawl” and “compact cities” the working group developed a consensus that one of the most relevant problems is the opposing thinking to deal with urban structures. Therefore often ideological debates gain more interests than a discussion about the necessity and specific qualities of both “idealised” settlement types. Therefore the main question to be clarified is sustaining what? That includes two further questions: What is talked about and what should be sustained?

Session B: Visions for Sustainable Cities

- *What visions of the future are preferable?*

The overall vision means a city that sustains good life of its citizens without harming nature. More detailed the vision for an integrated model of land use can be summarised by the demand “less sprawl – less compact”. That means that emphasis is not put on limits and impacts, but on specific qualities of both models. Desirable is a combination of different urban areas which could be characterised by poly-centric and multi-polarity structures; by less new land consumption at the regional level as well as by a systematic re-use of brownfields.

An important part of this vision is a consistent integrated approach being the state of the art of political and planning decisions. The society is aware of and cautiously deals with social consequences of sprawl and density through enabling affordable and attractive housing (particularly for middle classes) within the city. Secondly a new balance of city and landscape has been reached in which energy, food production and open space are as important as building purposes. A decline of suburbia areas which is predicted because of raising energy prices and changing needs and housing patterns has been avoided by additional re-densification and social infrastructure. The regional level has achieved acceptance to become sustainable in terms of land use. Thirdly, the vision contains improving qualities of urban fields in terms of social, economic and ecological diversity as well as of city functions. City growth is based on mixed and intensive land use and create added value for the whole city (not single function extension). There is no need to use cars at everyday life.

Session C: Making the Vision happen

- *In which fields of action do you see additional need for activities?*
- *What kind of policy measures are currently missing?*
 - Cities as agents of change promoting the advantages of integrated land use
 - Coherence of policies, programmes and projects
 - Effective Governance at the regional and local level
 - Changes and improvement of the public financing system including regional taxes and budgets for regional purposes (Impact fees). A flat rate for using regional public transport could reduce the car dependency and make dense urban structures more attractive
 - One important aspect is the development of consistent and ambitious land use policies by mixing functions and uses as well as to define a poly-centric structure at regional level
 - Development and test of new economic tools (e. g. insurance for abundant houses)
 - Information and communication in terms of marketing ideas and best practises,
 - promotion of living in cities and advantage of dense

Session D: How can Research facilitate Urban Sustainability

- *What are the knowledge gaps in the identified action fields? What are relevant research questions?*
- *Recommended ideas for types of future research at European level and concrete actions (to be carried out by URBAN-NET or other organisations)*
- *How can the implementation of research results be improved?*
- *In which fields of action do you see additional need for activities?*

Topics / Dimensions	Kind of research for Sustainable Urban Fields
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<p>Basics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of existing material being as the problem and its driving forces is already known • Urban Sciences and national planning systems, how are planners, architects and developers are educated and what are the legal guidelines, what are good or bad practises and why? • comparison and studies about urban muster and structure to develop an understanding about what to sustain • Using common data • Development and test new approaches of planning and decision making • Acceptance of land consumption and value of open landscape • Benchmarks of Cities and Regions
<p>Driving forces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same phenomena, but different contexts, tradition of single-function zoning • Raising energy prices and their impact on the settlement structure, • consideration of what can be planned but also adaptation of the unexpected, • risk of suburbia depletion and uncontrollable processes
<p>Spatial aspects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of sprawl including infrastructure • Poly-centric city (how can it introduced and become obligatory) • Landscape urbanism (how can the landscape become part of cities and regions?) • understanding and dealing with complexity, • integration of underground 3D-planning, • response to climate change • how to handle conflicting uses and raising needs for different land use (building and farmland for example)
<p>Socio-economic development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of polarisation processes and its factors as well as its frame conditions, • Cohesion as a common value and an overall concept • Public transit investments and promotion of non-motorized modes
<p>Implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated management concepts, (what is integration and how could it be reached?) • Backcasting / scenarios, • governance and participation even at the regional level in terms of self-organizing capacities, • anticipated land intervention / public ownership , • regional views • New policy instruments like obligatory urban growth boundaries / greenbelts, purchase / transfer of development rights or residential / commercial development moratoria which includes banning of new developments • Introduction and evaluation of new urbanist Principles

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer impact fees (pay the infrastructure if participate to sprawl)
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6.2 Integrated urban management through multi-sector/-actor governance

Session A: Appraisal of Sustainability in Urban Europe

- *What are the core problems and challenges in the given thematic area?*
 - Sectoral thinking and decision making
 - Raising complexity and dependencies
 - Lack of long-term orientated perspectives and need to consider short-term requirements and advantages
 - Not sufficient moderation or mutual understanding between experts / professionals and citizen / concerned persons

Session B: Visions for Sustainable Cities

- *What visions of the future are preferable?*

Characterising the process:

 - “Clever” and “talented” cities able to manage and adapt to uncertain and unintentional events, conserving beauty
 - Transparency on urban management and citizen participation on policy decisions and management
 - Flexibly organised integrated management that enables cities to adapt changing external conditions
 - Integrated urban development in a cooperative and long-term process involving different public departments, stakeholders (civil, economy), politicians, based on knowledge and backed up by respective integrated policies on upper administration levels

Modes to reach the visions:

 - Integrated urban policy based on reliable, evidence based benchmarks.
 - Cooperation between public administration, professionals and civil society in any planning and implementation process
 - Multisector/multilevel steering groups (citizens and government) for both policy and research proposal development & ongoing monitoring of success.
 - Examine relations between political timescales and ambitions with city planning (e.g. long term sustainable and integrated strategies require long term political support to see a vision from inception to reality. Also require strong leadership & a good team)
 - A slow city, also regarding planning processes and decision making
 - Elaborated platforms, mechanisms and tools for bridging gaps
 - Cities that publicly move from crisis-reactive actions to balanced (sustainable) & integrated pro-active management (by goals & policies) in a quick changing world.

Roads to innovation:

- An URBAN-NET call to Universities and Research Centers for partnership with cities and different actors and levels of territories to build common visions and implement plans for life with reduced CO₂ in 2020
- Energy, Energy, Energy as a key challenge for integrated urban management. Need to develop innovative urban structures
- Opportunity/threats as the starting point (not starting by special interest, budget, bureaucratic restraints)
- Develop the innovative capacity and democratic vitality of cities ie improve city leadership and citizen involvement.

Session C: Making the Vision happen

- *In which fields of action do you see additional need for activities?*

Research:

- More comparative research – into fail and success factors of urban governance/policy mix
- Support to transdisciplinary transnational research on integrated urban management
- Context based research

Integrated urban management:

- How to generate & implement institutional change
- It's necessary to work deeper the relations between different levels of administration
- Restructuring of organisational set up. Institutional reforms

Citizen's involvement:

- Assistance /back up to "civil actors" to grow/articulate /be heard
- Encouragement & incentives for civic responsibility among citizens
- Information of citizens and users on fiscality, on costs of public activities and deeds +public debates.
- Education for dropped outs, training not only for work supporting democratic debate
- Mobilizing elderly and voluntary with clear publicized rules on public projects
- Frameworks for protection & promotion of the community interests in public – private partnerships
- Rights and effect of people movement/ activities between towns/cities within an area of governance, e g city region, city etc, inter-country
- Democratic accountability of practice

Learning and capacity building for cities:

- Clever mechanisms for exchanging information and networking
- Comparative study of legislative and competitive powers of the current administrative situation in order to favourise integrated policies
- Urgent need to encouraging the strengthening of local democracy, including: more power to take action, supporting/strengthening political leadership , attracting talents to work in local government. Two reasons: 1. Democratic accountability 2. Enhance innovative capacity

Supportive urban policy:

- Support for cities (to realise integrated approaches)
- Enforcement of transparency rules across EU (like for environment assessment procedures)
- Scoping stakeholder analysis related to levels of intentions and goals. Disparate picture – EU context
- More incentives/economic instruments in place to work towards low carbon/energy efficient cities – how can spatial planning contribute to this. EU approach?

Session D: How can Research facilitate Urban Sustainability

- *What are the knowledge gaps in the identified action fields? What are relevant research questions?*
- *Recommended ideas for types of future research at European level and concrete actions (to be carried out by URBAN-NET or other organisations)*
- *How can the implementation of research results be improved?*

<p>Citizen's involvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring cities are places for the people who live there, e.g. housing: new places built & managed by real estate creating transient community • Emphasize citizen participation, democracy and organisation of civil society in order to achieve better level of politicians and urban managers • Involvement of NGO's in decision making mechanism • Creating active/committed citizens • Reaching the citizen level: Information to the ones who don't attend meetings is missing everywhere in Europe. Information on EU agenda understandable for people (and not the competition between people, regions). Reporting the evaluations made for technocrats to ordinary people by initiative like the Al Gore's film
<p>Integrated urban management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance /back up to "civil actors" to grow/articulate /be heard • Incentives to encourage development of integrated urban management • Mechanisms for long-term monitoring & evaluation of urban strategies/policies- & means of accountability beyond political short-terms • Flexibility - yes, but what kind of solutions face at legal norms? • At least for EU funded projects: The obligation to demonstrate cooperation between departments in local administration. Agreement on project objectives with professional bodies and civil society organisations. • Policy debate/options –integrating spatial & financial planning
<p>Learning and capacity building for cities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New knowledge transfers (peer reviews, ...) New rewards, incentives (in the career) Integration of tools ---- - a framework/coherent picture

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate cross-national learning within the EU (relating to relevant practice). Inadequate cross-national learning between the EU and elsewhere. Inadequate incentives to innovate and share experiences • Too much diversity in schemes and programmes, all with their own demands • Support to networking • Development of more forecasting scenarios
Supportive urban policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of different conflicts, different perspectives and power relations within an urban policy at European level • Creating a EU framework for integrated urban policy • Further implementation of sustainable city agenda e.g. Leipzig • Really implement the Leipzig Charta and the Territorial Agenda in a combined integrated way • Policy implementation- integration of tools (procedures, practices, processes) • Support mechanisms for urban policy: knowledge, innovation, demonstration, capacity building

6.3 Climate change and ecological risk management

Session A: Appraisal of Sustainability in Urban Europe

- *What are the core problems and challenges in the given thematic area?*
 - Carbon addiction
 - Lack of coherence in policies / opening up new opportunities
 - Need for new visions of quality of life
 - Climate strategy planning
 - Mitigation
 - Adaptation
 - Economic strategy
 - Climate initiatives
 - Engaging individuals
 - Inclusive of related socio-economic issues
 - Consumer behavior
 - Participation
 - Communication
 - Science / practice / policy interface
 - The evidence base: systems, vulnerability, risks
 - Doubtful institutional capacity for change

Session B: Visions for Sustainable Cities

- *What visions of the future are preferable?*
 - The city as a conscious community: residents, consumers, citizens, humans are involved, well-informed by and with policy makers and local leaders;
 - The city as a complex adaptive system, which translates into e.g. (formal) risk governance processes, a multi-risk approach to hazards, a risk management pool to cover the unforeseen costs of climate change and ecological hazards, or an EU urban risk management register (following the ESPON example);
 - The city as an embedded system, which is a zero-emission, de-carbonized, low-waste, water balanced, self-sufficient city that is regionally connected in a sustainable way.

Session C: Making the Vision happen

- *In which fields of action do you see additional need for activities?*
- *What kind of policy measures are currently missing?*

A voting process ranked the propositions made in order of importance attributed by the workshop participants:

1. Start a European conversation on climate change involving ≥ 100.000 European citizens. (Might this be a way to make more use of the European Parliament in Strasbourg?).
2. Understand the synergy between local, urban climate change programs and sectoral & EU policies.

3. Write an EU directive on integrated urban development planning. At the minimum, such a document should address the notion of quality of life as well as the relation between the city and its surroundings. The establishment of this directive should preferably be an exercise in citizen participation in EU politics.
4. Adopt carbon foot printing on the urban level to map city emission levels.
5. Two propositions were ranked in the fifth place:
 - a. Establish a European urban sustainability benchmarking system with an information sharing system;
 - b. Map the European cities threatened by climate change risks.
6. Four propositions share the sixth place:
 - a. Develop and revise the approaches and methodologies in risk management and uncertainty governance working from development via coordination to harmonization;
 - b. Create a European baseline to bring the entire European area up to common minimal standards in the field of climate change measures and ecological risk management, e.g. the minimum of information that local government needs to be provided about flooding occurrence, risks and anti-flooding measures taken;
 - c. Create new market-based approaches to mitigation and adaptation at the European level and offer non-regulatory approaches allowing for competition in this field;
 - d. Include climate change as a topic in existing EU programs.

Session D: How can Research facilitate Urban Sustainability

- *What are the knowledge gaps in the identified action fields? What are relevant research questions?*
- *Recommended ideas for types of future research at European level and concrete actions (to be carried out by URBAN-NET or other organisations)*
- *How can the implementation of research results be improved?*

Sub-cluster in the field of urban climate change and ecological risk management	Knowledge gaps / Research topics
Urban mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Models for community benefit from mitigation infrastructure (wind, solar, heat pumps) - Urban mitigation (CO₂ – zero – city) - Lack of objective information → monitoring, benchmarking - Modeling failures due to short time statistical data - (Action) research on the multitude of ongoing urban / regional climate initiatives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synergies / trade offs between adaptation and mitigation

<p>Cross-cutting urban mitigation / adaptation</p>	<p>strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection and analysis / assessment of successful best practices - Climate sensitive planning: basic knowledge exists (Vitruvius), but we need to understand more details and how to implement / communicate the knowledge in climate change perspective on all urban scales - ‘Climate check’ of national / regional planning and building codes and regulations – how are these adapted to climate change impacts? - Analysis of implementation hindrances - Support of local / regional climate change mitigation / adaptation processes (case study – governance approach)
<p>Urban adaptation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Require research programs to analyse the reversibility of installations (no clear vision of the future) - Development of a pan-European ‘quality of European life’ indicator plus setting of targets - Resilience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meaning - Building - Across all sectors (i.e. people, urban economy, etc.) - Evaluation of current national climate change adaptation strategies in order to identify common principles for joint actions
<p>Cross-cutting urban adaptation / citizen, community involvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulties of a real evaluation of territorial vulnerability (because of political pressure of the local government) → requirement for indicators
<p>Citizen, community participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Differential social impacts of climate change - Techniques for empowering citizens (fiscal, legislative, social, marketing) - Action research or (European) citizen panels - How to strengthen delivery capacity at the local/regional level (in different contexts and relating to knowledge, skills, organizational issues) - PPP in the government – science/NGO – business triangle - Human behavior is unexpected, e.g. in certain European countries it turned out that car drivers and passengers could only be sensitized to the use of a safety belt in the car through penalties
<p>Cities as complete adaptive systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify threats / risks to urban ecosystems considering climate change impacts - Identify cost / benefit ratios of climate change adaptation

	<p>measures. Including the costs of not taking adaptation actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis social-economic data & trends to assess how these factors are likely to influence vulnerability to climate change - Keeping cities competitive - Improved understanding of the relationship between spatial planning, transport, land use, energy, resource use, urban infrastructure, feedstock, ecosystems, etc.
Cross-cutting cities as complete adaptive systems / risks & uncertainty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated assessment of cities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-discipline - Multi-scale - Merge quantitative and qualitative research - etc.
Risk & uncertainty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing uncertainties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantifying - Analyzing - Methods for decision making under uncertainty - Sequencing plus planning long term adaptation strategies - High resolution scenarios of climate, population, land use, energy change, etc. - Development of socio-economic scenarios to provide decision makers with possible future situations to assist in assessing risks and development adaptation strategies within an appropriate planning time frame - Downscale climate change impacts to urban regions - Uncertainty: better climate change scenarios (better fitting for cities)
Multi-actor / multi-level government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to overcome different competencies
Science engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence based tools that help communicate / visualize / support interactive participation in envisioning urban futures - Improve science / policy / public communication by laundering 'science for society' projects - Require research programs to have citizen panels and a policy relevant focus - Establish science → practice R&D - A European strategy for sustainable development - Require public debate: dialogue between elected representatives, industrialists, population and researchers
General cross-cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop localized scenarios for urban / regional climate change initiatives - Urban monitoring plus remote sensing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for socio-economic research in relation to climate

Other	<p>change research: some groups, (sub)cultures in the city will be hit harder than others by climate change; the rich will be able to pay for adaptation, but what about the others?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A public, interactive, informative, educational front-end on climate change models - Research capacity building at the local / regional level to deliver policy, implement it, translate results of climate change research into it - Gap between the administrators and researchers (academics): administrators have the daily practical experience whereas academics don't - Validation of models with field data
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Types of research / Concrete action

The four most urgent research types and initiatives are the following:

- Build European communities of Research & Practice on climate change on the regional/urban levels. These communities work with best practice and introduce new practice in the given area.
- Develop research programs that include methods & tools for communication and dissemination. The establishment of dialogue between all involved is crucial.
- Write a pamphlet on the theme "Why Cities?", evaluating whether the city is a necessity or even desirable for a sustainable future, what role the city is to assume in a sustainable future. Underneath this discourse lies the question of what society we want to live in.
- Create a European league of "eco-maires", environment conscious mayors who stand up for the sustainable development of their municipality. An element of competition will help to spur more to action.

Furthermore the following actions were named as needing immediate attention and follow-up:

- Establish an urban LPIS (= Land Parcel Identification System), a monitoring system for local, regional planning. Such a system should be administrated by scientific managers.
- Launch demonstration / pilot projects to work towards good practice.
- Establish a network of climate change correspondents, e.g. in the form of an observatory.
- Write a handbook on EU directives, regulation, documentation, e-content and interests in the field of climate change and ecological risk management.
- Lobby / exert influence on EU green papers on urban climate change. This would be an action for URBAN-NET.
- Take stock of and describe current FP7 sustainable cities: what results have been obtained, how can good practice be adopted, how can we build on existing results?
- Connect with existing networks, e.g. Eurocities, ICLEI, EUKN, Clinton Initiatives, C40, etc.
- Start working on an ERA-NETplus for URBAN/NET, the prolongation of this network.
- Prepare a EU directive on integrative urban development.
- "Free our data" (particularly if it is government funded research): scientific knowledge should be freely and transparently accessible and shared. Modelling, codes, etc.

should be open source materials available for (scientific) progress that is not inhibited by intellectual property rights. Papers and other publications should also be freely accessible, not only for the scientific community, but for the larger public as well.

- Build research capacity at the local and regional level to deliver policy implementation, translating the results of climate change research into action.
- Fund integrative research.
- Engage administrations in this process.
- Create political will beyond terms in office. Most climate change and ecological risk management are not solved in four years.
- Engage scientists / academics differently. The academic system should be influenced or provided with the incentives for the promotion of popular science writing. Scientists are brave, but have to follow the system to get funding and permanent jobs. An annual reward for the scientists who communicate climate change issues and solutions best, is desirable.

6.4 Health, quality of life and public spaces

Session A: Appraisal of Sustainability in Urban Europe

Definition of “health

The group debated the definition that should be adopted for “health” and more or less agreed that the WHO definition (entered into force 7 April 1948) could be satisfactorily adopted in the context of this theme

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”

- *What are the core problems and challenges in the given thematic area?*

Agreed definitions (Health, quality of life, public spaces)

- Definition of health is more than just morbidity and mortality – need to address social determinants
- Quality of life means different to different people – housing, employment, environment, services, culture, community etc. It is important to understand this complexity
- Qualities and characteristics of the most successful public/green spaces; size, location, layout, design, features, management, facilities, accessibility
- Important to explore quality as well as quantity of open space or green space
- Need to define whether we are considering green space, open space or public space

Social inclusion

- Inclusion of different social and demographic groups through the use of public spaces
- Some groups are excluded from particular places
- How can public space/green space help to reduce inequalities?
- Cultural differences and use or non-use of public/green space – ethnicity, lifestyle types, European regional cultures (migration) etc.

Environmental quality

- Toxic waste disposal and health (trends and solutions)
- Waste management (e.g. Naples, Italy)
- Environmental noise
- The role of green areas in the urban climate
- Increasing noise
- Air quality (pollution from vehicles and industry)

Children

- Unfriendly to children
- Children in play-learning environments

Biodiversity

- The benefits of public spaces for the maintenance of biodiversity within cities
- Green spaces-biodiversity-conservation
- Managing biodiversity- how? – the role of the administration

Ownership – claiming space

- Public feeling of public space being for them
- Privatisation versus commercialisation of public space
- Competing for use of space – who wins and what are the consequences?
- Privatisation of public space
- “Good place” encourage affluent neighbourhoods – these are less accessible to all
- Ensuring ownership or stewardship of public spaces

Behaviours

- Encouraging access and use of green spaces
- Changing our urban behaviours
- Urbanisation means indoor life separation from the natural environment – an irreversible process
- How to persuade inactive people to go out and use the green spaces that are already there; motivation, competition for time, habit-breaking etc.

Sustainable urban-planning – design

- How to plan public spaces within an urban area so as to expand their health impacts
- Impact of demographic change on public space and social cohesion
- Balance of open space and mixed use and how to get that right
- Provision of urban gardens within the planning framework
- Retro-fitting “green” to urban places
- Provision of multifunctional pedestrian and meeting places

Transport and access to open/green spaces

- Sustainable transport
- Car traffic

Health

- Are different types of public spaces/green spaces better for health and wellbeing
- Planning policy that advocates engagement with health
- Is creating open space conducive to interacting with others likely to affect health – do we have the evidence on this in a range of contexts?
- Is green space always good for health – do we have the evidence in a range of contexts?
- Measuring the importance of green space to health
- Is proximity to “bad” space worse than proximity to “good” space

Management of public spaces

- Coordination of urban sustainability and research policies and strategies
- How do we set the priorities for urban sustainability research?
- Cities need global and integrated programmes for public spaces
- Integrating public spaces in sustainable urban design
- Cities need sustainable urban design
- Integration of public space in to all other aspects of a healthy sustainable community – too much consideration in isolation
- Public health management in cities (not often discussed)

Participation and governance

- Planning and design of public spaces according to local people’s needs

- The role of the public in the process of generation public spaces
- Cities need urban design for citizens – universal spaces

Safety

- Safety in public spaces (crime, management, drug abuse)
- Perceived safety as a barrier to the use of public space/green space
- Security – safety

Economic and financial aspects

- Limits in budgets and financing of public space mean that new strategies are required
- Human health should be placed before possessions and economic growth as a directive to integrated planning
- How can the private sector be convinced of the economic benefits of public space?
- Budget pressures on the maintenance of public space
- Demonstrating the “value” of public spaces

Waste and water

- Sustainable water and waste management

Session B: Visions for Sustainable Cities

- *What visions of the future are preferable*

Key question: Visions of desired future directions (horizon 2015). What visions of the future are preferable? The group was asked to “vision” or imagine an ideal place that exemplifies a good example of a public space that promotes good health and quality of life. The places ranged from imagined to real (woodland, city square, cycle route, botanic garden, quiet village etc) and included the following range of (sometimes conflicting or tensions between urban/sub-urban/rural) features, values and underlying processes.

- Safe routes for pedestrian; walkable, cycleable routes
- Connectivity between spaces, absence of “barriers”
- Day/night time uses
- Prioritising and integrating spaces in planning processes
- Retro-fitting and future proofing for changing demands
- Space for temporary activities, events, creative space, meeting place
- Easily accessible or close proximity “doorstep places”
- Inclusive to all cultures, ages, families; multi-purpose places
- City identity and sense of place
- City “buzz”, vibrancy, dynamism and street life
- Shops and restaurants at street level
- Happy and healthy citizens
- Safe for mixed use by all ages, variety of choice for different interests
- Good provision of reliable, quiet public transport for access to spaces
- Green spaces (parks), biodiversity, trees, open and shady places
- Attractive design, green landscape, clean and well-maintained
- Integration of natural systems (water, air) for environmental quality
- Public participation, locally informed and “ownership”

- Exposure – “built-in” opportunities to experience the weather
- Absence of; pollution, litter, vehicles, vandalism
- Fresh air, peace, solitude
- Architecturally varied, energy efficient buildings, low density,

Session C: Making the Vision happen

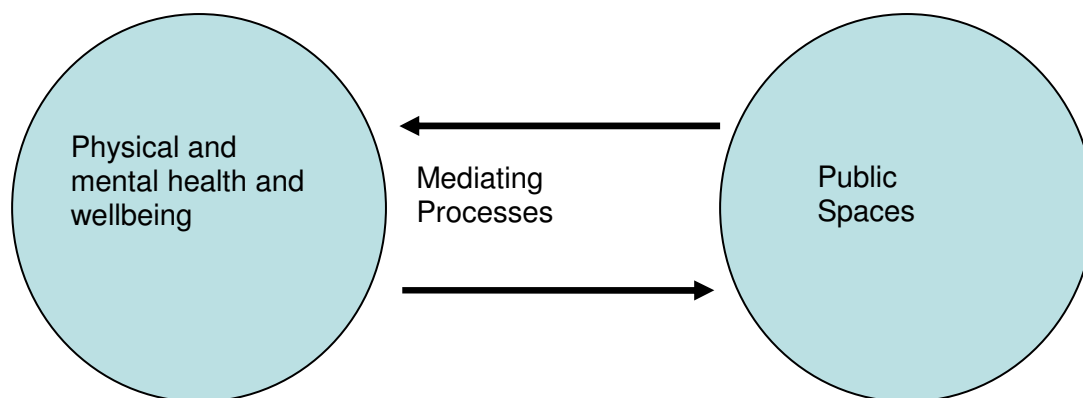
- *In which fields of action do you see additional need for activities?*
- *What kind of policy measures are currently missing?*

Action Field	Priority by votes
Planning and design	1
Strategy	2
Participation	3
Health and well-being	4
Integrated regulation	5
Education	6
Management	7=
Safety	7=
Transport	9

Session D: How can Research facilitate Urban Sustainability

- *What are the knowledge gaps in the identified action fields? What are relevant research questions?*

The group found it helpful to adopt a model to focus thoughts on “mediating processes” between health and public spaces;



Specific research questions:

No.	Question	Considerations
1	What Processes/tools are effective in supporting planners in making healthy sustainable places?	Identify best practices, conditions of success, what works and why, process and outcomes evaluations, understanding tools that are in place and

No.	Question	Considerations
		that deliver
2	Identification of good/effective comprehensive urban visions and strategies on health and public spaces	Understanding local and regional contexts, reconnecting first principles
3	What are the motivating social factors that encourage use of open/green spaces for achieving health promoting activities?	Why are some social groups more likely to use open space, why does proximity not always matter
4	Which elements and factors lead to an intergeneration public space being able to adapt to demographic change?	Intergenerational groups, involvement and inclusion, connections across groups
5	As health is the target for city establishment how is health defined in the city system of junctions and connections between public spaces of different use?	Junctions between spaces that are of different uses and purposes, - connectivity and junctions.
6	How local people can needs impact on the definition of good public space?	Local and individual priorities and values, age/income/culture, generic and common principles, integration patterns and cultural differences and preferences
7	How can the urban environment support and encourage physical activity in people's everyday lives?	Understanding how people become active, facilitating every day activity through planning, schools, shopping trips, integrating daily life activities
8	Interdisciplinary research that could facilitate strategy formulation and policy-making in the areas of public health with a focus on socio-economic aspects	Focus on socio-economic aspects, interdisciplinarity, cost-benefit – social benefit valuation, attaching value to mental health, addressing competitive forces for use of available space
9	Development of an indicator/measure of health promoting public space	Policy success measured by indicators, how to measure standards for qualitative aspects e.g. reputation, experience. Media and discourse analysis – changes over time, soft GIS, sociotope mapping, environmental psychology (affordancy), how to establish threshold levels.
10	Evaluate the benefits of space which are designed to bring together children and seniors (and youth) in different contexts	Systematic evaluation by comparative analysis, intergenerational safety and increased use. Baseline establishment to measure inputs-outputs-outcomes.
11	Life-stage analysis – How can the health and well-being aspects of public space be tracked from cradle to grave as people pass through different life stages and different relationships/uses/interactions with public space?	Use of space in different ways at different life stages, life-style/life-cycle analysis, policy-place analysis,

No.	Question	Considerations
12	How can cities be made fit for all (seniors and children and therefore fit for all others)?	Flexibility of housing, provision of facilities; shops, restaurants, services etc.

Topics

- Person-centered life-stage analysis use of space, needs at different ages
- Cradle to grave use of space
- How retrofit spaces
- Understanding “affordances”
- Activity spaces
- Intergenerational inclusion, not just peer groups, social connectivity
- Understanding motivational factors in different social groups
- Migration patterns and different uses of space by different cultures
- Everyday uses of space, daily routines and link with activeness

Methods

- Evaluation across EU members
- Economic valuation of inward investment in space
- Identifying best practices and mechanisms that deliver
- Identify conditions of success, what does and does not work and why
- Mapping “sociotope”
- Process and outcomes evaluations
- Social studies of values and perceptions
- Case studies
- Systematic studies
- Mapping; local, regional and geographic scale
- Media and discourse analysis

Strategic

- Baseline outcomes and process mediating factors
- Reconnecting with first principles of public health planning
- Interdisciplinary and integrated approaches
- Systems approaches that identify junctions of influence

Types of Research and Concrete Actions

INTERDISCIPLINARY	NOW & FUTURE	EVALUATIONS	AGE-RELATED
A broad requirement for interdisciplinary research involving social/economic sciences, natural and medical sciences, planning and management together with the involvement of “lay experts”.	more exploration of the future trends of society and the main drivers of social change and the likely implications for public space – such as demographic change, migration, developing technology, the changing relationship of people with nature, modes of transport etc	Evaluations – systems and tools for evaluation of places, processes, outcomes and policies so that the impact on health and wellbeing can be fully understood	Age-related research – life stages of people and their use of public space and its impact on health and well-being from cradle to grave – a kind of life-stage analysis approach could be developed similar to life-cycle analysis of products
HEALTH PROMOTING SPATIAL CONNECTIONS & FUNCTIONS			

Concrete proposals for URBAN-NET (European-level):

- A systematic review of research and practice delivering health benefits (incorporating all research around Europe, not just published in English), or a meta-review of reviews already carried out in different countries.
- A Europe-wide comparative study of different types of city (at NUTS3 level) and their public space in relation to health outcomes, using spatial data from health statistics, city structure, GIS analysis etc backed up by a collection of primary data, including an examination of public space management.
- Further work on the evaluation of the benefits of public space and its role in the wider city economy, for example in terms of attracting inward investment, business relocation, tourism etc.
- Mixed-method research to consider the interrelationship of the results of environmental and pollution monitoring systems in cities and public health – such as particulate matter, ozone, asthma and respiratory diseases.
- Research on future scenarios and societal trends across Europe on a regional basis, reflecting economic and cultural regional differences, in terms of health and public space, in order to inform city planning over the long term.

7 Conclusions

Looking at the four thematic priority areas at first sight gives the impression that four independent topics were discussed during the workshop. A second closer look reveals that this was not the case. The topics are not only important for Urban Sustainability, no, the **areas are also closely related and interconnected**. For instance climate change issues have a strong interface with urban sprawl and all selected areas seem to be linked to multi-sector, multi-actor governance.

It became again clear that only **integrated approaches on sectoral aspects** can lead to success when it comes to urban development, management and research. This is particularly true as some planning and development goals tend to contradict each other: for example the concept of a compact city might be favourable for land conservation but not necessarily from a climate adaptive city point-of-view where perforated cities seem to be preferred.

TÜV as the organiser of the workshops discussed and evaluated the outcomes and proceedings of the event. It was decided to highlight and summarize some remarkable aspects and recommendations that came up during the workshop. General advice was given on the following:

- ***Include the regional level***

It was often stressed that the adoption of a regional perception is necessary when it comes to spatial issues. Effective Governance at local and regional levels is a task that applies to all topical areas.

- ***Do not forget economic aspects***

It was already highlighted during Stakeholder Workshop 1 that economic aspects tend to be neglected. That applies to climate change and risk management (e. g. Insurance) at the same time as to urban sprawl (e.g. economical costs).

- ***Concentrate on cities as pro-active managers***

In order to cope with challenges in a quick changing world cities need support to fulfil their future tasks. Local authorities and politics must be empowered to move from crisis-reactive actions to balanced (sustainable) and integrated pro-active management (by goals and policies).

- ***Focus on best practice***

Identify, generate, disseminate and demonstrate best practices and make them easily replicable. However, it is also necessary to analyse and understand mistakes and failures.

- ***Understand and use driving forces***

Driving forces and patterns of constant developments and changes in cities need to be understood in order to influence them. A policy and management that solely focuses on reaction to threats and driving forces do not make cities attractive and successful. Scenarios and back-casting methods help to develop comprehensive future pictures.

Some tangible ideas for future research and activities were brought forward that were targeting at URBAN-NET and the EU:

- **Take stock of and describe current FP7 sustainable cities**

When doing so include the questions what results have been obtained, how can good practice be adopted, how can we build on existing results?

- **Support mechanisms for urban policy such as the creation of an EU framework for integrated urban policy**

Such a framework should facilitate the generation of new valuable knowledge, innovation, demonstration and capacity building among cities in Europe.

- **Write an EU directive on integrated urban development planning**

Such a document should address the notion of quality of life as well as the relation between the city and its surroundings. The establishment of this directive should preferably be an exercise in citizen participation in EU politics.

- **Carry out European baseline and comparative studies**

For getting to know what we know already and what has been done in Europe recently such studies are deemed to be highly beneficial.

- **Launch a trans-disciplinary URBAN-NET call on common visions and implement plans for life with reduced CO₂ in 2020**

Such a call should focus on partnerships between Universities and Research Centers and cities as well as different actors and levels of territories.

- **Build European communities of Research & Practice on climate change at the regional/urban levels**

These communities should work with best practice and introduce new practice in the given area.

- **Establish a European urban sustainability benchmarking system**

It was suggested to add an information sharing system to such an initiative.

- **Connect with existing networks**

Recommendations came up to establish closer ties with relevant networks, organisations and initiatives such as Eurocities, ICLEI, EUKN, Clinton Initiatives, C40, etc.

8 Next steps towards an European Research Framework for Urban Sustainability

As described at the beginning of this document the Berlin-Workshop was merely one single step on the way towards the URBAN-NET Framework for Urban Sustainability. However, it was a crucial one. A number of very important pressing and relevant knowledge gaps and questions were brought forward by the attending experts that need further in-depth consideration and additional research. Doing this at European level can bring great benefits to the URBAN-NET partners, to their national clients at programme, scientific and local administration levels and thus to Europe as a whole.

After further analysis of the workshop results within the focal areas and a systematic search for links and dependencies between the areas a “European Research Framework for Urban

Sustainability” will be drafted by the URBAN-NET Management Group. In autumn the consortia will be asked for feedback as well as a National and European Stakeholder engagement. A final version is expected for early 2009. It is planned to publish a brochure on the results for wider usage.