



URBAN-NET



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

URBAN-NET

Deliverable 3.1

“Short term requirements for integrated urban research – an emerging agenda for urban research in Europe”

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Comprehensive Matrix: Short-term requirements for transnational sustainable urban research through an Integrated Approach in the frame of URBAN-NET

1. Introduction

The URBAN-NET project addresses issues of urban sustainability in Europe. Its overall aim is to increase the cooperation and coordination between European Member and Associated States through networking and the collaboration on joint research activities. URBAN-NET is funded by the European Commission's Framework 6 Programme under the European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) initiative. The project has wide geographical and cultural representation through its membership of 16 partners from 13 countries. It is managed by a consortium formed by these partners and will run for four years from August 2006 to July 2010.

The project will deliver better value for money at a European level by achieving economies of scale, minimising duplication in research funding, and improving the standards of research commissioning, its management, evaluation and dissemination. URBAN-NET sets out to address the urban research agenda in Europe and will result in long-lasting transnational coordination primarily through jointly funded research programmes.

The identification and analysis of gaps in current research programmes and common strategic issues is a central task within the URBAN-NET work plan. This process is led by the project's work package 3 (WP3). This work package aims to develop joint understanding of the future agenda for urban research. More specifically, WP3 fulfils the vital role of determining common strategic areas for future action (research funding). This entails identifying commonalities between existing research programmes and developing and implementing a process capable of establishing which potential strategic areas are of interest to the majority of consortium partners and those that would be most likely to be funded through transnational cooperation actions.

As URBAN-NET is preparing a pilot call for early 2008 it is necessary to split this work into a two-step process. First, an investigation of short-term needs has to be carried out. Later on, the development of long-term requirements and a transnational framework for URBAN-NET are to be followed up.

This report focuses on the short-term requirements that were investigated during March and July 2007. It briefly summarises the work process carried out by the consortium, both the short-term requirements that were singled out and derived recommendations for the future work.

2. Work process

Whereas the development of the long-term framework will be conceived by a complex strategic process, it was decided by the consortium to apply a rather straight forward and pragmatic method to identify, explore and agree on emerging short-term requirements for sustainable urban research. An “interest-oriented” approach was chosen to select relevant future research areas and topics that would supply the basis for the URBAN-NET pilot common call.

In order to achieve the intended results, a work process was designed and implemented. The most important stages of this process are broadly outlined in this chapter.

As a starting point, WP3 was able to draw on foundations laid by work packages 2 and 5. Within WP2 the URBAN-NET taxonomy (see Deliverable 2.1) had been developed which clustered urban research themes to accommodate a more integrated approach. The intermediate results were transferred as ‘future research dimensions’ and “research areas” to the draft version of a future research matrix.

In WP5 a questionnaire had been designed and sent to partners to ascertain partner interests on all related aspects of the pilot call. The topic-related interests mentioned by partners in this questionnaire were also transferred to the draft matrix as ‘future research topics’.

In a first consultation loop, the “future research topics” draft version was commented on by the consortium partners. Then all partners were asked to express and prioritise their highest interests for transnational cooperation in the frame of the first URBAN-NET pilot call.

In the next step all URBAN-NET members were asked to:

- declare whether they were both interested and able to participate in a first pilot call in the frame of URBAN-NET; and
- choose a maximum of 7 research areas and 12 research topics that were mentioned in the template as ‘statements of interest’. However, choices were not considered binding.

The consultation with partners by means of the questionnaire completed in May/June 2007 brought about three groups of URBAN-NET partner countries that were differentiated as follows:

- A) Countries / Organisations both interested and able to participate in an URBAN-NET joint pilot call:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Bulgaria | 6. Portugal |
| 2. Cyprus | 7. Romania |
| 3. France | 8. Scotland |
| 4. Netherlands1
(Nicis + NWO) | 9. Sweden |
| 5. Netherlands 2
(SenterNovem) | 10. Turkey |

B) Countries / Organisations of which participation was unclear for the time being:

11. Austria
12. Germany
13. United Kingdom

C) Not included in analysis:

14. Spain

3. Short-term requirements for transnational sustainable urban research

The research matrix in section 3.2 is the result of the filtering and prioritisation process that was described earlier. It can be seen as a list of preferred research areas and topics that state the greatest need for research at a transnational level and indicates the greatest national interest for a transnational pilot call in the frame of URBAN-NET at the same time. It should be stressed that this analysis is limited to the participating countries.

The result of the consultation has shown once more that URBAN-NET consists of a broad variety of different countries and funding programmes. The countries diverge significantly in terms of size, geographical and urban structures. The involved programmes have been commissioned from different types of departments and ministries and the research fields and foci vary. As a consequence, challenges in urban areas (and the approaches to overcome these), policy objectives and future interests of the given countries vary considerably.

3.1 Key findings

Looking at the structure of votes given for research areas and topics of the questionnaire, it is impossible to detect particular preferences with certain country clusters such as strongly industrialised countries, weakly populated countries, northern countries or new EU-member state countries. The votes on prioritised items are widely spread throughout the different research

dimensions, areas and topics, following no clear tendency. These patterns can be seen as early indicators for the thesis that URBAN-NET's future cooperation actions will most likely be carried out either;

- by covering rather **broad topical areas**; or
- with a clear usage of the principle on **variable geometry**, which allows varying country participations in different thematic research areas.

In the case of the latter, only countries with similar focussed interests and needs will come together for concrete cooperation actions.

However, in the matrix (see 3.2 and the Annex), some areas and topics are emerging, that seem to be high on the agenda of most or at least many of the partner countries within URBAN-NET. According to the number of votes, the following eight research topics received the highest preference by partner programmes within the consortium:

- **Energy Efficiency (9 votes)**
- **Spatial Planning and Planning Process (8 votes)**
- **Transport and Mobility (6 votes)**
- **Land use (6 votes)**
- **Renewable Energy (6 votes)**
- **Green Space and Structures (6 votes)**
- **Demographic Change, fragmented and ageing Society (6 votes)**
- **Social Cohesion, Equality and Integration (6 votes)**

The matrix in section 3.2 provides greater details on the topics that received more than 4 priority votes. It is structured by three levels, referring to research areas, themes and topics. The full results of the process are stated in the Annex.

3.2 Overview: Short-term requirements for transnational sustainable urban research through an Integrated Approach in the frame of URBAN-NET

No	Research Dimension (A)	Research Area (B)	Research Topic (C)	Descriptions / Research Questions / Remarks (D)	Countries interested in cooperation (E)	Most voted items (>4) (F)
1	POLITICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE					
1.1		Governance	Decision making process	N/A	SE, FR, NL1, PO, RO	5
		Governance	Citizen participation	N/A	CY, SE, NL1, RO, FR	5
2	SPATIAL-ECOLOGICAL					
2.1		Land Use		N/A	BG, CY, RO, SCO, (AT), (DE)	4+2
2.3		Transport and Mobility		N/A	CY, NL1, RO, FR, SCO, (DE)	5+1
2.5		Energy and Resource Management		N/A	CY, NL1, FR, SCO, (DE)	4+1
		Energy and Resource Management	Energy Efficiency	N/A	BG, CY, FR, NL2, PO, SCO, TR, (DE) (UK)	7+2
		Energy and Resource Management	Renewable Energy	N/A	BG, CY, NL2, SCO, TR, (UK)	5+1
2.6		Urban Environment		N/A	CY, SE, FR, RO, (AT), (DE)	4+2
		Urban Environment	Green Space and Structures	N/A	BG, FR, RO, SE, (AT), (UK)	4+2
		Urban Environment	Cultural Heritage	N/A	BG, NL2, PO, SE, TR	5
2.8		Urban Planning		N/A	SE, FR, NL1, RO, (DE)	4+1
		Urban Planning	Spatial Planning and Planning Process	N/A	BG, FR, SE, NL1, PO, RO, SCO (DE)	7+1
		Urban Planning	Urban Renewal, Rebuilding + Improvement	N/A	NL2, FR, PO, TR, (DE)	4+1
3	SOCIAL-ECONOMIC					
3.1		Social Development	Demographic Change, fragmented and ageing Society	N/A	BG, CY, FR, SE, NL1, (DE)	5+1
		Social Development	Social Cohesion, Equality + Integration (equal access)	N/A	BG, CY, NL1, PO, TR, (UK)	5+1
3.2		Economic. Development	Local Economy	N/A	BG, FR, SE, NL1, RO	5

This overview matrix shows the Research Areas and Topics which received more than 4 priority-votes by partner organisations. In column F the first digit stands for countries willing to participate in the URBAN-NET pilot call in early 2008. The second digit presents the number of country-votes made from partners whose participation is unclear for the time being. The two outstanding – most voted - research topics are highlighted in yellow.

4. Recommendations and outlook

Having finalised the matrix of suitable research areas and topics the identified short-term requirements will be further used within URBAN-NET for the following purposes:

- The results will be an important starting point on which the URBAN-NET pilot call will be built.
- The URBAN-NET project partners will receive a first indication on which thematic areas and topics are of interest to a high number of other partner countries. This information can be considered an important foundation for tangible transnational cooperation when planning the future scope of national research funding. With the knowledge of the matrix interest-oriented ideas and proposals within the thematic frame of the prioritised areas are more likely to receive support within URBAN-NET.
- The matrix will be one decisive starting point in the process that shall be designed for the setting up of an URBAN-NET long-term framework.

ANNEX

Comprehensive Matrix: Short-term requirements for transnational sustainable urban research through an Integrated Approach in the frame of URBAN-NET

The following data is based on the results of an URBAN-NET questionnaire completed in May/June 2007. Regarding the intended pilot call the following statements were made by the partners:

- Countries / Organisations both interested and able to participate in an URBAN-NET joint pilot call:
BG, CY, FR, NL1 (Nicis+ NWO), NL2 (SenterNovem), PO, RO, SCO, SE, TR (10 partners in total)
- Countries / Organisations which participation is unclear:
AT, DE, UK (3 partners in total, noted in parenthesis in column E)
- Not included in analysis: **ES**

No	Research Dimension (A)	Research Area (B)	Research Topic (C)	Descriptions / Possible Research Questions / Remarks (D)	Countries interested in cooperation (E)	Most voted items (>4) (F)
1	POLITICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE					
1.1		Governance			CY, SE, RO, FR	
			Decision making process		SE, FR, NL1, PO, RO	5
				Planning and governance, sectors and actors – conflicts and interplay – need for policy integration In combination with area 'urban planning'	SE, FR	
				Formal and Informal structures in the implementation process	PO	
			Self organisation and responsibility		NL1	
				In combination with area 'urban planning'	NL1	
			Citizen participation		CY, SE, NL1, RO, FR	5
				Participation and democracy I urban planning processes In combination with area 'urban planning'	SE, RO, FR	
				Are territories of administration adequate to territories lived by people in the metropolis; is participation organised for real users, or for voters?	FR	
			Policy impact assessment			
1.2		Legislation + Legitimacy			(AT)	
			Urban-Suburban Relationship			
				How to link/make cooperate the different	(AT)	

No	Research Dimension (A)	Research Area (B)	Research Topic (C)	Descriptions / Possible Research Questions / Remarks (D)	Countries interested in cooperation (E)	Most voted items (>4) (F)
				governances of cities and communities in agglomeration areas		
1.3		Financial System	Justice		FR, (DE)	
			Local Taxes		FR	
			Local public debts		(DE)	
1.4		Time Dimension			BG	
			Foresight and future oriented Planning		BG	
			Long-Term Policies		BG, NL2	
1.5		Monitoring + Evaluation			NL2	
1.6		Safety and Security				
			Violence and Crime		TR	
			Crime hotspots			
			Terrorism			
			Prevention, Risk- and Disaster Management		BG, FR, SCO	
				Flooding	BG	
				Sustainable urban flood risk management	SCO	
2 SPATIAL-ECOLOGICAL						
2.1		Land Use			BG, CY, RO, SCO, (AT), (DE)	4+2
				Efficient and sustainable land use	BG	
			Urbanisation / Sub- and Re-urbanisation		PO, FR, (DE)	
				Residential movements, housing preferences and employment	PO	
			Density			
			Brownfields / Contaminated Land		CY, SCO, (AT), (DE)	
			Spatial Extension and Urban Sprawl		PO, FR, RO	
				Measures to manage urban sprawl; reduction of land consumption	PO	
				An attempt to understand the forces driving urban sprawl, and to experiment more dense urbanisation with new urban forms	FR	
2.2		Housing and Building			TR, (DE)	
			Standards and Quality		NL2, (UK)	

No	Research Dimension (A)	Research Area (B)	Research Topic (C)	Descriptions / Possible Research Questions / Remarks (D)	Countries interested in cooperation (E)	Most voted items (>4) (F)
			Management and Systems		PO, (UK)	
				Controlling social problems in all types of housing stock	PO	
			Housing Finance		(DE)	
2.3		Transport and Mobility			CY, NL1, RO, FR, SCO, (DE)	5+1
				In combination with energy efficiency and climate change	NL1, FR, RO	
				Sustainable transport systems and options	SCO	
			Mobility Management		NL2	
			Roads and Traffic Net		BG, NL2	
				GIS – equal monitoring system for European transport net		
			Public Transport		CY	
			Private Transport			
			Transport Safety			
			Short distance logistics			
2.4		Infrastructure for Supply + Return Systems		Short distance shopping vs. shopping centres in the outskirts of cities	(AT)	
			Water		(UK)	
			Communication			
			Electricity			
			Gas			
2.5		Energy and Resource Mangement			CY, NL1, FR, SCO, (DE)	4+1
				In combination with energy efficiency and climate change	NL1, SCO	
			Energy Efficiency		BG, CY, FR, NL2, PO, SCO, TR, (DE) (UK)	7+2
				Reduction of energy consumption in urban areas	PO	
				Energy efficiency in the urban form and in reducing mobility	FR	
			Renewable Energy		BG, CY, NL2, SCO, TR, (UK)	5+1
2.6		Urban Environment			CY, SE, FR, RO, (AT), (DE)	4+2
				Criteria and indicators of environmental problems	BG	
				Urban structure and urban socio-technical systems – performance and management	SE, RO	
				Form and function of urban environment with respect to everyday life (health + re-creation, service, work +	SE	

No	Research Dimension (A)	Research Area (B)	Research Topic (C)	Descriptions / Possible Research Questions / Remarks (D)	Countries interested in cooperation (E)	Most voted items (>4) (F)
				leisure activities)		
			Public Space		PO, (DE)	
				Urban space quality	PO	
			Green Space and Structures		BG, FR, RO, SE, (AT), (UK)	4+2
				Green space and green structures	SE, SCO	
				Recreation areas, sports also for elderly	(AT)	
			Cultural Heritage		BG, NL2, PO, SE, TR	5
				Cultural and architectural values	SE	
				Urban space quality	PO	
			Air		CY	
			Noise		CY, TR, (DE)	
			Waste		CY, NL2, TR, SCO	
			Water		CY, TR, SCO, (UK)	
			Biodiversity		CY, SCO (AT), (UK)	
2.7		Climate Change			NL1, SCO, (AT)	
				In combination with transport & mobility and energy efficiency	NL1	
			Mitigation		NL2, SCO ,(AT), (UK)	
				Vulnerability	(AT)	
			Adaptation		SCO (AT), (UK), (DE)	
2.8		Urban Planning			SE, FR, NL1, RO, (DE)	4+1
			Spatial Planning and Planning Process		BG, FR, SE, NL1, PO, RO, SCO (DE)	7+1
				Combined with the selected topics in the area Governance	NL1, RO	
				Urban/Spatial quality	BG	
				Remote sensing and in-situ monitoring	BG	
				New instruments and techniques in spatial planning	BG	
				How to use GIS, to manage urban territories?	BG	
				How to plan green and blue Urban structures	BG	
				Planning Equal access to basic urban infra-structure sustainable neighbourhoods	PO	
				Environmental Justice - spatial distribution of inequalities - poorer neighbourhoods situated adjacent to 'bad' environments	SCO	
				Linked with government aspects	FR	
			Urban Renewal, Rebuilding +		NL2, FR, PO, TR, (DE)	4+1

No	Research Dimension (A)	Research Area (B)	Research Topic (C)	Descriptions / Possible Research Questions / Remarks (D)	Countries interested in cooperation (E)	Most voted items (>4) (F)
			Improvement			
				In combination with ERA BUILD	NL2	
				Urban improvement	PO	
				Re-housing of inhabitants, the social mix in renewed neighbourhoods, link with renewal and economic development	FR	
			Architecture, Design and Landscape Design		PO, SE	
				Innovation and new building technologies	PO	
			Digital City			
3	SOCIAL-ECONOMIC					
3.1		Social Development			SE, FR, RO, (DE)	
			Demographic Change, fragmented and ageing Society		BG, CY, FR, SE, NL1, (DE)	5+1
				Demographic, social and ethnic spatial segregation	SE, RO	
				Urbanised countryside	SE	
				Organisation of cities and forms of urban life – new urban lifestyles provide new conditions for the development of urban space and housing estates	SE	
				Combined with the selected topics in the economic development area	NL1	
				How to think the struggle against dependency and the necessary solidarities in cities; how to modify housing for elderly, etc...	FR	
			Social Cohesion, Equality + Integration (equal access)		BG, CY, NL1, PO, TR, (UK)	5+1
				Combined with the selected topics in the economic development area	NL1	
				Suburban futures: how to deliver equal urban services in and out of town	BG	
				Equal access to the basic urban infrastructures and life quality	PO	
			Social Welfare		TR	
			Values and Rights			
			Migration		NL1, PO	
				Combined with the selected topics in the economic development area	NL1	
				Integration and Rights	PO	
3.2		Economic. Development			SE, RO	
			Employment / Unemployment			

No	Research Dimension (A)	Research Area (B)	Research Topic (C)	Descriptions / Possible Research Questions / Remarks (D)	Countries interested in cooperation (E)	Most voted items (>4) (F)
			Competitiveness		SE, FR, NL1, RO	
				Cities as engines of economic development	SE, RO	
				Combined with the selected topics in the social development area	NL1, RO	
			Working patterns			
			Technology Development		NL2	
			Business Support			
			Local Economy		BG, FR, SE, NL1, RO	5
				Interaction between urban and rural areas	SE	
				Combined with the selected topics in the social development area	NL1	
				Economic actors in local society: how local economy meets globalization?	BG	
				In relation to local authorities: to try to make local plans able to find resources to become values in globalisation	FR	
3.3		Education + Knowledge			BG, CY, TR, SCO	
				Value of education and awareness raising in influencing behaviour, choices and sustainable living of public	SCO	
			Schools			
			Skills and Training			
			Universities and Spin Offs			
			Research / Innovation		CY, PO	
				Innovation and Urban Development	PO	
3.4		Health + Quality of Life			SCO, (AT)	
				Life style and life quality	(AT)	
			Health and Social Services		(UK)	
				Environment + health links in urban areas	SCO	
			Sports / Recreation			
3.5		Community Development				
			Neglected Quarters		BG, (DE)	
			Identity and Image		PO	
				How communities identify their living spaces	PO	