

# URBAN-NET

## Deliverable 2.7

### Urban Knowledge & Research in the European Urban Agenda

#### UDG/URBAN-NET Joint Seminar

#### 17th March 2011 in Brussels

Prepared by Nicis Institute (Leaders of work package 2 and 4B)  
April 2011

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



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## Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Julien Van Geertsom, Chair of the Federal Public Service for Social Integration, anti-Poverty Policy, Social Economy and Federal Urban Policy, the Belgium Federal Ministry responsible for urban development, who hosted the seminar at the World Trade Centre II, Boulevard du Roi Albert 26-30, Brussels. Organisation and administration of the event were the responsibility of URBAN-NET, represented by Mart Grisel from Nicis Institute, who also chaired the event, with the assistance of moderators Wim Hafkamp and Liz Mills. Thanks are also due to Eduardo de Santiago Rodriguez who represented the Urban Development Group (UDG), more specifically the Urban Research and Knowledge (UR&K) Working Group working established under the UDG.

## Executive Summary

This is the report of a seminar organised jointly by URBAN-Net and the Urban Development Group (UDG) under the auspices of the EU Trio Presidency (2010-2011). Hosted by PPS Social Integration, anti-Poverty Policy, Social Economy and Federal Urban Policy, the seminar took place in Brussels on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The event was the latest step towards building closer dialogue between urban policy makers (especially those working at national and EU levels), research commissioners and the academic urban research community, in the context of ongoing work of the Ministers responsible for urban policy and spatial planning under successive EU Presidencies. The objectives of the seminar were broadly to:

- provide information on current and upcoming EU initiatives in the field of urban development, knowledge and research, and on innovative models for learning; and to
- facilitate the organisation of an intergovernmental structure to coordinate urban research programming and funding of transnational calls – whether through continuity of existing structures or some new coordination arrangement.

The programme for the day, details of the speakers and moderators, plenary presentations and a list of participants are in Annexes 1 to 4.

During the **Introduction to the seminar**, participants were welcomed by **Mart Grisel** of Nicis Institute, the chair for the day, and by **Julien Van Geertsom**, representing the former Belgium Presidency of the European Union, who outlined the progress made during the recent Belgian presidency on the European Reference Framework on Sustainable Cities and development of a handbook on multilevel governance.

Three speakers then provided some detailed scene-setting on the **European context**. **Eduardo de Santiago Rodriguez**, representing the Spanish Presidency of the EU and the Urban Development Group, presented a broad review of the main EU funding programmes relevant for research and exchange of practice and knowledge on urban issues. He also introduced the FP7 project URBAN-NEXUS which is expected to go ahead later in 2011. Designed to build on the work of URBAN-NET, this is a coordination action intended to strengthen relationships between stakeholders and policy makers in the area of research on sustainable urban development and so directly related to the



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seminar objectives. He also reported the establishment of an intergovernmental Joint Programming Initiative *Urban Europe*. In conclusion, Eduardo de Santiago Rodriguez provided some information on the agenda of the Urban Research and Knowledge (UR&K) Working Group established within the context of the Urban Development Group (UDG). The outcomes of this seminar would be relevant to their activities over the next few months

This was followed by a perspective from the European Commission from **Astrid Kaemena**, DG Research & Innovation, who made the point that there have been substantial opportunities for urban research in FP6 and FP7 despite the absence of a dedicated programme for urban topics, including the recent Environment Call which has resulted in likely approval of URBAN-NEXUS. She also described the changing focus within the research programmes at EU level as stakeholder involvement, long term results, communication of findings to a broader audience and attention to the research-policy interface are now all required alongside scientific excellence. On 9th February 2011, the European Commission presented a Green Paper which proposes major changes to EU research and innovation funding. The Commission is seeking the views of all interested individuals and organisations on these proposed changes and on the specific questions set out in the Green Paper, which provides fertile territory as well for discussions at the ways to foster closer dialogue between the research and policy communities..

**Wim Hafkamp** from Nicis Institute rounded off this context-setting session with a summary of progress on the new *Urban Europe* JPI, supported by the European Metropolitan network Institute. A more conceptual third session introduced some innovative models for a more effective exchange between policy and research communities. **Tineke Lupi** from Nicis Institute presented alternative models of **knowledge utilisation**, contrasting the connection mode – in which bridging organisations and consultants act as a channel between the world of academic research and the policy community – and the interaction mode which involves direct collaboration and joint learning. **Henrik Nolmark** from Mistra Urban Futures then briefly explained the concept of **knowledge arenas for integrated urban development** and described an ambitious pilot scheme in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Following the plenary presentations there were two interactive sessions. **Collection of ideas** before lunch threw up a range of issues as the participants responded to points made by the speakers. The topics covered fell into four broad categories – challenges for the research/policy interface, ways to make links between these two communities, some issues in international collaboration (including the need to ensure representation in urban activities and in these debates from across Europe), and the treatment of urban issues in EU programmes. After lunch the participants returned to discuss **strategies and further actions**, identifying actions which could usefully be taken both within Member



States and at EU level. Following feedback from the moderators there was a lively discussion of possible follow-up actions. The main points are summarised as **conclusions and recommendations by the participants of the seminar**. Mart Grisel closed the seminar by outlining the next steps and thanked all those present for their contributions.

Three **areas for further action** were broadly agreed:

1. transnational aspects of urban policy (EU, member states);
2. strategic engagement with the EU policy framework for research and innovation;
3. Continued promotion of closer cooperation between the urban research community and the urban policy community.

This led to the following recommendations (addressees are in italics and between brackets):

#### **1. On the transnational aspects of urban policy (EU, member states)**

It would be advantageous to consolidate the urban agenda at the levels transcending the member state level by using the existing EU mechanisms. It would be appropriate to liaise with the European Parliament's Urban Intergroup if this is taken forward.

##### **National representatives are recommended to:**

- a) produce a synthesis document based on the presentation by Eduardo de Santiago Rodriguez outlining the scope to use EU funding programmes for urban research or other activities on urban sustainability (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*);
- b) ensure that EU2020 has a territorial dimension, including specific reference to urban areas; (*UDG/DGs/ministers*);
- c) call on the European Commission to prepare an updated Communication establishing the EU framework for action on urban sustainability, including an agenda for urban research and provision for funded activities that encourage or require direct collaboration between urban policy makers and researchers (*UDG/DGs/ministers*);
- d) develop a Council Recommendation or Council Decision on Sustainable Urban Development. (*UDG/DGs/ministers*).



## 2. On strategic engagement with the EU policy framework for research and innovation

There is scope for both policy makers and research commissioners in the urban field to more fully exploit the EU policy framework for research and innovation.

### National representatives are recommended to:

- a) commission or call for an assessment of the impact of urban research carried out in FP5, FP6 and FP7 on the development of urban policy and measures at different governmental levels; (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*);
- b) brief urban ministers on any opportunities to influence FP7 work programmes for the remaining period (*UDG*);
- c) enable urban ministers to engage with representatives of their national governments responsible for oversight and management of current FP7 and discussions of the future Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding - to inform them of the urban agenda; (*UDG*);
- d) draft a response to the Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*);
- e) establish contact with the European Parliament's Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee (responsible for FP7 and CIP) and the Committee of the Regions' Commission for Education, Youth and Research. Discover their positions on the future programmes and whether they are calling for specific urban research (*UDG, URBAN-NET*);
- f) explore whether adoption of Urban Europe JPI by the Council will reduce the chances of an EU programme for urban research in the new Common Strategic Framework and establish a position on this (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*).



### **3. On continued promotion of closer cooperation between the urban research community and the urban policy community**

It is appropriate to acknowledge the existence of some recently-established mechanisms for closer working between policy makers and academics in FP7. There may be scope to improve them in future programmes.

#### **National representatives are recommended to:**

- a) explore whether there are any organisational models for a new urban 'dialogue platform' amongst existing structures linked to FP7 (eg ETP, KTC... ) (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*);
- b) evaluate relevant parts of the FP7 Capacities programme, especially Regions of Knowledge (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*);
- c) lobby for continued and expanded opportunities for direct collaboration between the urban policy community and urban research community in future programmes (*All*).





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## Background & objectives

This is the report of a seminar organised jointly by URBAN-Net and the Urban Development Group (UDG) under the auspices of the EU Trio Presidency (2010-2011). The Urban Development Group is an informal, intergovernmental body of national policy makers working together with the European Commission DG Regional Policy, the European Parliament and urban networks. URBAN-NET represents in the UDG urban research.

The seminar is a joint initiative of the UDG as part of the work of the recently established Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group. Urban Development and Urban Research can be seen as two sides of the same coin. Yet decision-makers in these two areas rarely work in close cooperation. Feedback from the urban development community on results and new knowledge generated from research is often lacking. Research agendas and programmes are hardly ever effectively coordinated to be in line with issues addressed and informed by political agendas.

This observation led the most recent Spanish Presidency of the EU to investigate possibilities for better coordination of research, policy and practice. The Scoping Paper *Urban Knowledge and Research in the European Urban Agenda* highlighted the need for structured dialogue at European level between policy makers, researchers and research managers responsible for programming and funding. Further practical progress was made during the Belgian Presidency of July-December 2010.

The seminar reported here, which took place in Brussels on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011, was an important step in bring the key players together.

The meeting had two main objectives :

- to provide information on current and upcoming EU initiatives in the field of urban development, knowledge and research, and on innovative models for learning; and
- to facilitate the organisation of an intergovernmental structure to coordinate urban research programming and funding of transnational calls – whether through continuity of existing structures or some new coordination arrangement.



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## Report of proceedings

### *Introduction to the seminar*

As chair for the day, **Mart Grisel**, in his capacity as Work Package leader of the second work package of the URBAN-NET project, sketched the history of the meeting. This seminar had a long gestation – going back to the 2009 Swedish Presidency and continuing through the recent Spanish and Belgian presidencies – coming to fruition during the current Hungarian Presidency. The seminar was one of the last events of the FP6 ERA-net URBAN-Net, organised jointly with the Urban Development Group (UDG). The UDG now has a programme of action which is directed to both policy making and urban research.

While it is difficult to say that there is one agreed research agenda, stakeholders in this field are convinced that there are few direct linkages between policy makers at EU level and the urban research community. A key concern is the means by which research can deliver new ideas to policy makers. At EU level there is a new policy agenda linking research more closely to innovation. This was a good moment to explore and consolidate thinking about future urban research needs and ways in which policy makers and researchers might better communicate.

Outlining the agenda for the day (Annex 1), Mart Grisel reminded participants of the two main objectives, firstly to inform participants of some existing and future initiatives in the fields of urban policy and research and to report some recent work on innovative models for knowledge transfer and learning, and secondly, mainly through interactive sessions, to discuss how intergovernmental arrangements to coordinate urban research programming might best be taken forward. He briefly introduced the speakers and workshop moderators. The interactive workshop sessions would provide opportunities to go into further detail on ways in which urban researchers and policy makers can more effectively communicate. The final session of the day would focus on the identification of concrete steps for action to be taken over the next 6 to 12 months as development of the EU urban agenda continues.



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**Welcome on behalf of the Trio Presidency of the European Council**

**Julien Van Geertsom, Chair of the Federal Public Service for Social Integration, anti-Poverty Policy, Social Economy and Federal Urban Policy**

On behalf of the Trio Presidency of the EU, Julien Van Geertsom welcomed participants to the World Trade Centre which houses several federal government departments, including Federal Public Service for Social Integration, anti-Poverty Policy, Social Economy and Federal Urban Policy.

Social issues dominate the agenda of the service for urban policy, which is responsible for the development of policy on deprived neighbourhoods. Some 17 Belgian cities are the subject of 'Contracts for Sustainable Cities' through which urban regeneration schemes are delivered at the territorial level. The urban policy service is also responsible for the coordination of Belgian activities related to urban action at EU level, including management of the URBACT programme and inputs to the Urban Development Group.

There has recently been real progress on the urban agenda at European level as a result of close collaboration by representatives of national governments. Mr Van Geertsom welcomed colleagues from Spain and Hungary responsible for their respective Presidencies and thanked them for their contributions to the recent activities led by Belgium. Previous cooperation with the Netherlands was also much appreciated.

Congratulating all those involved for their work on the Toledo Declaration adopted at the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development held on 22 June 2010, Mr Van Geertsom explained the steps taken during the Belgian presidency to pursue the follow-up actions agreed in Toledo.

- Work on the European Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities has continued apace. Many of those present at the seminar had taken part in the 2-day workshop for cities currently piloting this new tool which was held in Brussels on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March.
- For the Belgian Presidency, development of new approaches to multilevel urban governance was a high priority. Experience demonstrates the need for different levels of government to pursue shared urban objectives through their own particular competences rather than competing for leadership of the agenda. A two volume 'handbook' on multilevel governance is in preparation, with Volume 1 covering different approaches and Volume 2 containing examples of both good and poor practice drawn together by the EUKN secretariat.



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Belgium has been active in promoting research on urban topics and in calling for stronger coordination of EU level urban actions since this topic was highlighted by the Swedish Presidency in 2009 at the meeting they hosted in Stockholm which stressed the need to orient urban research more closely towards practice. That meeting called for better dialogue between researchers, research managers and urban policy makers – now all represented at this seminar.

## ***The European context***

### **1. Existing and upcoming structures linking policy and research**

**Eduardo de Santiago Rodriguez, State Secretariat of Housing and Urban Actions, Ministry of Public Works, Spain**

In his wide-ranging presentation (Annex 3) Eduardo de Santiago Rodriguez first reminded participants of why the urban dimension is important. Cities are the most complex of human creations. Place matters. For both analysts and actors it is essential to understand how measures taken at different territorial scales interact to produce impacts 'on the ground'. Ways need to be found to close the gaps between urban knowledge and urban policy making. The very complexity of urban issues demands an end to 'silo thinking' and the application of integrated and holistic approaches to the management of urban challenges. A brief explanation of urban knowledge cycles highlighted the importance of well-informed action in terms of bringing practical improvements to the lives of both cities and their citizens.

Eduardo de Santiago Rodriguez then turned to a rapid review of the main funding programmes relevant for research on urban issues which are coordinated at European level. He highlighted:

- the intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, COST, in which the Transport and Urban Development Domain was one of the most relevant for this audience; and
- the EU's main research funding instrument FP7 (for the period 2007-2013), with its four main programmes for Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities and 10 key thematic areas.

Asking whether there is a specific place for urban issues in the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development, Mr de Santiago Rodriguez reminded participants that there has not been a dedicated EU urban research programme since the FP5 Key Action *City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage*. However, there have been many opportunities for research on urban issues in some of the Cooperation strands, such as Environment, Transport and Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH). The PRIMUS project provided one example, interesting for this seminar because of its aim to enhance the connections between researchers and policy makers on local sustainable development and its focus on tools for urban sustainability management. In SSH the Social Polis platform is significant for its development of a research agenda addressing the role of cities, social cohesion and inclusion. Social Polis took stock of a great deal of previous work and



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succeeded in engaging a wide range of stakeholders in determining the key issues worthy of future research effort. Several participants in Social Polis were present at the seminar.

In FP7 the project URBAN-NEXUS, which builds on the work of URBAN-NET, is expected to go ahead later in 2011. This is a coordination action intended to strengthen relationships between stakeholders and policy makers, including through knowledge transfer. Furthering the long-term strategic framework for scientific cooperation on issues around sustainable urban development is one of the main goals of this project, clearly related to the seminar agenda.

In the Toledo Declaration the Ministers responsible for urban policy asked the European Commission to consider the urban dimension in FP7 and stressed the importance of continued support in future. An opportunity to reinforce this message has arisen with the Commission's publication of the *Green Paper on the future of EU research and innovation funding* on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The seminar provided an opportunity to identify points for a joint response to the consultation on the Green Paper, open until 20<sup>th</sup> May.

The lack of continuity of funding for specific urban research is in contrast to the CIVITAS initiative – with its successive phases funded by FP5, 6 and 7 – which supports demonstration actions on clean and efficient urban transport.

In addition to the EU level programmes there are numerous national, regional and local research initiatives which are currently fragmented and lacking in coordination, although major steps have been taken towards the creation of the European Research Area, notably through the ERA-nets, through Article 185 of the EU Treaty, and most recently through proposals for Joint Programming Initiatives.

URBAN-Net itself is an ERA-NET, running from August 2006 to April 2011. Key outputs include a searchable research programmes database, the published *Strategic Research Framework in the field of Urban Sustainability* and two transnational research calls which have resulted in a number of funded projects, summarised in the *URBAN-NET Research Anthology* published in 2010. In the Toledo Declaration the urban ministers called for continuation of the work begun by URBAN-NET to coordinate transnational research programmes on urban topics and the intergovernmental funding of calls for transnational projects, and to extend the number of participating countries.

The Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) is perhaps the big idea for the future. The overall aim of Joint Programming is to pool national research efforts in order to make better use of Europe's public R&D resources and to tackle common European challenges more effectively in a few key areas. Amongst



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the first JPIs identified by a High Level Group of the European Council is *Urban Europe* – not yet fully approved, and the subject of a later presentation at this seminar - which aims to tackle such fundamental problems as sustainable energy supply, securing society's demands for individual mobility, reducing the ecological footprint of the modern economy and understanding the impacts of demographic change.

Mr de Santiago Rodriguez then briefly explored a range of EU Territorial Cooperation programmes, including:

- ESPON, with its focus on applied research on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion, in relation to which the EU Ministers responsible for urban development have called for a greater focus on 'urban dynamics';
- INTERREG IVC, for interregional cooperation, promoting exchange and transfer of knowledge and best practices across Europe; and
- INTERACT.

The European Commission's initiative *Regions for Economic Change*, implemented through INTERREG IVC and the urban exchange programme URBACT II, highlights good practice in urban and regional development and may be described as a learning platform for EU regions.

Comparisons may be made with knowledge-sharing initiatives at city level, such as *Urban Knowledge Arenas*, the subject of a later presentation by Henrik Nolmark.

Existing EU level structures for knowledge exchange on urban issues include:

- EUKN – an intergovernmental network with national focal points in 15 Member States which functions as a knowledge hub for practitioners, researchers and policy makers at all governmental levels; and
- URBACT II, the Territorial Cooperation programme jointly financed by the ERDF and Member States, which focuses on exchange and learning between cities.

In addition to these major programmes there are numerous urban research associations (such as EURA) and institutes such as the recently-established European Metropolitan network Institute (EMI), with its overall mission 'to reinforce the economic and social strength of European metropolitan areas



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by means of innovative knowledge'. Professional associations are in place for many of the disciplines involved in dealing with urban challenges (such as transport, housing and planning).

Finally, Mr de Santiago Rodriguez turned to the *Urban Research and Knowledge (UR&K) Working Group* established within the context of the Urban Development Group in order to take forward the Ministers' Toledo Declaration commitment 'to continue promoting research, comparative studies and statistics, exchange of best practices and dissemination of knowledge on urban topics, and strengthening the coordination of them all'.

A scoping paper developed by the Working Group was approved at the Ghent Directors General meeting in December 2010 and circulated prior to this seminar. The seminar itself was one of the agreed actions. Objectives of the Working Group which will structure work over the following months – and which seminar participants were advised to bear in mind during the day – include:

- coordinating and facilitating the flow of information between urban development policy making and urban research policy making, programming and funding;
- facilitating the process of building the European Research Area in the field of urban development through intergovernmental coordination including joint programming and joint funding of research calls at transnational level;
- influencing EU key research programmes and *dossiers* in order to secure an appropriate place for urban issues;
- facilitating the flow of information from knowledge-makers to knowledge dissemination points, and the feeding of knowledge dissemination points with best practices; and
- facilitating the flow of information between informal and applied urban research at local level and local decision-making, through Local-Urban (City) Knowledge Arenas.



## **2. Structures linking policy and research – perspective from the European Commission, Astrid Kaemena, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation**

Representing the recently renamed DG Research and Innovation, Astrid Kaemena outlined the main features of FP7 and then focused on the opportunities for urban research in the 10 thematic areas of the Cooperation strand, which has the largest share of the programme budget. Ms Kaemena is responsible for the Environment Theme and outlined the main topics covered.

The 2011 Environment Work Programme contained numerous opportunities for urban research, for example under the headings relating to prevention and mitigation of natural hazards, management of the urban environment and – under the general heading of environmental technologies – built environment. Effectively, the opportunities for urban research have been ‘mainstreamed’ in this programme, and it is possible to argue that this approach provides greater resources for work on urban topics than might be available in a special urban action which would be likely to have a limited budget.

In addition to the general themes, the 2011 Environment call included two priorities specifically addressing urban issues. ENV.2011.2.1.5-2 entitled ‘Furthering Strategic Urban Research’ was especially relevant for the agenda of this seminar. This called for a ‘coordination action’ to ‘further the long-term strategic framework for scientific cooperation related to urban research’, enabling, amongst other things, knowledge transfer, the building of a structured dialogue and the establishment of public-private partnerships, ‘fundamental for the implementation of sustainable urban development and planning’. The action was explicitly designed to build on the existing URBAN-NET ERA-net in order to maintain some continuity of intergovernmental action in this policy field at a time when the new JPIs were only just coming on stream. The project URBAN-NEXUS – which involves several of the existing URBAN-NET partners – has been selected. Negotiations to finalise the project were opened in February 2011.

Ms Kaemena then turned to a more general consideration of the ‘science-policy interface’, which is an issue across Europe, relating to all levels of government and to all policy areas (such as climate change and biodiversity, for example) and not only to urban issues. In considering this issue it is useful to make some finer distinctions, such as between different players within particular types of communities. The ‘policy community’, for example, embraces a wide range of actors concerned with strategies, legislation, implementation, monitoring and other activities, each requiring different sorts of research inputs. There is not always a clear distinction between ‘researchers’ and ‘policy makers’, since many individuals have overlapping attributes and roles. In seeking to create the European



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research community all players have different interests but at the end of the day all efforts are about the real world and the needs of citizens.

What is the European Commission looking for in the research carried out with the support of the Framework programmes? Previously DG Research concentrated solely on scientific excellence. This is still an essential feature, but impacts and innovation are now becoming more important. Securing long term results, communication and dissemination of findings to a broader audience, stakeholder involvement and attention to the research-policy interface are now all requirements for EU-funded research projects. Proposals for a new framework for research and innovation funding in the context of the EU2020 strategy provide fertile territory for discussions at the on ways to foster closer dialogue between the research and policy communities.

### **3. The *Urban Europe* Joint Programming Initiative**

**Wim Hafkamp, Scientific Director Nicis Institute**

Standing in for Hester Menninga, Vice Director of the *Urban Europe* JPI Management Board, Wim Hafkamp gave a brief history of the JPI. In the autumn of 2009 there were proposals for two initiatives on related themes – one on transport proposed by the Netherlands' Ministry of Transport and Public Works and one entitled City of the Future from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation, Technology. The Joint Programming Committee (JPC) and Council of Ministers called for amalgamation of these two proposals. A revised proposal for *Urban Europe* was adopted by the JPC and Council during 2010. A Governing Board and Management Board for *Urban Europe* are now in place. Not all EU Member States are represented on the Governing Board but there is a large enough group to enable progress to be made. The Management Board, chaired by Professor Peter Nijkamp of the Free University of Amsterdam, is currently working on a long term policy vision. A recent workshop has consolidated work on a research agenda for the new programming initiative. As things stand the agenda is broad-ranging and likely to be able to accommodate issues arising across all European regions. A Status Report published in March 2011 has recently been considered by the JPC. Although not yet formally adopted, *Urban Europe* is considered to be progressing at the same speed as the first round of JPIs and there is every hope that the programme will be put in place in due course.



## ***Innovative models for a more effective exchange between policy & research***

### **4. State of the art in knowledge utilisation**

**Tineke Lupi, Nicis Institute/URBAN-net**

This presentation was based on a piece of work commissioned by URBAN-NET to review conceptual ideas on the connections between research and practice (D. 5.6). Tineke Lupi first considered the importance of 'knowledge' to the EU's broader agenda and recent changes in the way knowledge is produced. Better ways to render existing knowledge more useful in informing policy and practice still need to be found.

The 'normal' model describing the links between research and policy formulation is a linear one in which research results and data are used directly by policy makers to inform decisions. This assumes that research outputs are taken up by policy makers and, conversely, that policies and strategies are based on evidence provided by the 'research community'. However, this is not always true, especially in situations where research and policy communities exist in separate worlds. This is considered to be the case for urban research and practice.

Knowledge is of course not the only factor driving policy development. Although some research-generated knowledge may be used strategically to justify particular policy lines, in other circumstances the impact of research is indirect, with new knowledge typically inspiring new ideas and insights, leading to a slow transformation of views and paradigms. Knowledge is socially-constructed, and in knowledge-transfer good communication is crucial. Key factors in successful communication of knowledge include the source of the information, content of the message, the tools and techniques used and the target (or user) audience.

During the last 10 to 15 years, connections between the research and policy communities have increasingly been made by 'bridging institutions' such as networks, platforms, think tanks and expert groups. Bridging activities – such as knowledge exchange, translation, dissemination, advice-giving, process management and training – are not generally the work of researchers themselves. These are activities typically carried out by consultants using a range of tools such as articles, websites, databases, seminars, master classes and training programmes.

This **connection mode** works well for clearly defined policy issues and well-researched areas involving a limited number of stakeholders. In this model, the bridging institutions do not tell the policy



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makers what to do but rather provide contextual information to enable them to make better-informed decisions. The two communities remain intact. The knowledge bridge defines the knowledge and there is 'institutionalisation' by the bridging organisation.

An alternative model describes knowledge utilisation through direct interaction between the research and policy communities. In this **interaction mode** of working, researchers and practitioners collaborate in a process of joint learning. The process is characterised by consensus and trust and it may be more likely than the 'bridging' model to lead to policy innovation. There is a focus on individual participants and their particular skills. Tools and techniques typical of the 'interaction' model include, for example, communities of practice, knowledge arenas, public-private partnerships, open spaces and joint fact-finding. Good examples familiar to the audience at this seminar are the European Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities and the Social Polis platform.

Also worth exploring is the 'outcome mapping approach' characterised by a 'learning spiral', as designed by the World Bank. This is considered to work well in tackling the so-called 'wicked issues' (such as sustainability) which demand a long term perspective, multi-level governance, multidisciplinary research, integrative strategies and a more experimental approach to both knowledge and policy formulation. However, this approach has limitations in that it is often a long, complicated and open-ended process in which established patterns of behaviour need to be changed. Often there is little internal support or recognition for the process, results are subjective or context-specific, and participants, especially researchers, may find their independence compromised.

In conclusion, the utilisation of knowledge is considered to be most effective in the context of partnership between research and policy communities. 'Connection mode' and 'interaction mode' serve different purposes and both have their uses. A broader message is that searching for general principles is seen as more effective than locally-specific information-gathering in bringing new knowledge to the policy community.

## **5. Knowledge Arenas for integrated urban development – why and how ?**

**Henrik Nolmark, Mistra Urban Futures**

Addressing the 'why?' part of his question, Henrik Nolmark started with a reminder of the complexities of cities and the need for integrated urban development to tackle challenges involving a wide range of interlinked issues and a diversity of actors. The work of Mistra Urban Futures is focused at the point



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where these issues come together. This complexity has three important implications for urban research and knowledge generation. Firstly, laboratories and field experiments are not possible; research must be carried out on real processes involving real actors. Secondly, it is impossible to 'fix' the city; researchers are always presented with a moving target. And thirdly, each location has its unique context.

Henrik Nolmark then identified several 'points of reference' for what might be termed 'pre-policy activities for urban research', including, for example, the report of the Expert Group on the Urban Environment's Working Group on urban research. This project, funded by the European Science Foundation, was part of the preparatory work for the Commission's *Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment* in 2004, the *Urban Science Forward Look* (2005) and more recently URBAN-NET's *Strategic Research Framework* and the final report of COST Action C20 on Urban Knowledge Arenas. All call for urban research that is problem-oriented, action-oriented, and inter- multi- and trans-disciplinary.

An Urban Knowledge Arena is defined in COST C20 as a temporary multi-stakeholder collaborative partnership taking a trans-disciplinary approach which combines research, knowledge and capacity-building in a particular urban setting. The partnership should deliver both specific knowledge likely to have an impact on the local urban situation and also generic knowledge contributing to the international state-of-the-art.

Addressing the 'how ?' part of the question, Henrik Nolmark described the approach of the Mistra Centre for Urban Futures. Urban Futures is an international centre for sustainable urban development established in Gothenburg, Sweden, established by Mistra, the Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, which has an inspiring vision for the creation of 'knowledge clusters for integrated urban development'.

The Interaction Platform in Gothenburg, operated by the Mistra Urban Futures Centre, brings together public bodies, such as the City of Gothenburg and the Region of West Sweden, with private companies and universities. Interactive platforms like this exist in other places, and the intention is to promote more, for example in cities as far afield as Manchester, Shanghai and Kisumu. An essential task in each case is to identify goals and reconcile the different views of a range of urban actors whilst bringing together varied expertise and know-how in a 'transdisciplinary arena'. Five pilot projects are in progress in Gothenburg, on topics ranging from 'adaptation for climate change' to 'urban games'. All gather a diverse group of practitioners and researchers around an agreed problem area, involve a collaborative process, have joint leadership and focus on practical outcomes. An innovative feature of



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these projects is that all participants – including members of the public – are compensated for their time. Deliverables include both practice-related reports and research material suitable for publication in scientific papers. All participants learn to operate in a trans-disciplinary setting.

Based on past experiences within other project some participants were dubious as to the value of collaboration with researchers. However, after nine months of working in the pilot projects the cooperation was quite successful. The experience demonstrates that close interaction between academics and policy makers requires participants to work outside their 'comfort zones'.

## **6. Optimising the link between research and policy - interactive sessions**

Following the plenary presentations participants were split into two groups for an open discussion. The first session provided an opportunity to reflect on the material presented during the first part of the day, to go into more detail on some of the challenges and to collect further ideas for improving the research-policy interface. The second session focused on identifying actions required at different levels – from individuals to local authorities, national government and the EU – so as to further improve links between researchers and practitioners in the field of urban policy and to secure future research funding opportunities. Wim Hafkamp and Tineke Lupi led and reported one group, and Mart Grisel and Liz Mills the other. The summary here brings together the main points generated by the two groups. A list of the participants is in Annex 2.

### **Challenges for the research/policy interface**

There is an issue about how to attract the 'best' academics into the world of policy when the rewards may not be great. For those pursuing a primarily academic career direct engagement in policy making can be risky. Academics fear the loss of their independence and that they may be exploited for political gain. Moreover, academics need to publish peer reviewed articles and are not rewarded in the same way for policy outputs.

There is a mismatch between the number of articles produced by academics and the number actually read by policy makers. Solutions may include, for example, the production of briefings summarising the main findings of policy-relevant research, or the use of maps and other illustrative devices. Academics are urged to convey their results in laymen's language. Projects which provide for both scientific papers and policy development are likely to be attractive for both 'communities'.



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Policy makers – especially in city councils - may see the contributions of academics as lacking in understanding of practical realities or as insufficiently appreciative of the technical expertise of municipal staff. Representatives of city networks present at the seminar made the point that more needs to be done to harness local knowledge and expertise which are often considerable. Those responsible for commissioning urban research – generally located within national agencies or government departments – often fail to consult local policy makers on what research might be most relevant for them.

Research and policy-making processes typically proceed at different speeds. Policy makers often need very rapid answers and are unwilling to wait for research results. Researchers in turn may feel under pressure to deliver findings which are 'quick and dirty'.

In some countries the links between research and practice are much weaker than in others. In France, for example, the links are reportedly not well developed. However, there are opportunities to intensify work on urban issues at the moment because these issues are high on the political agenda.

Across Europe, financial pressures are currently making it difficult for most urban local authorities to engage in any research activities at all.

### **Ways to make the links**

In considering challenges like these there was agreement with the remarks made by Asrid Kaemena that it is important to recognise different styles of research – from data gathering unrelated to a specific policy agenda, to especially commissioned 'research for policy' and research on the impacts or outcomes of policy – and different opportunities to exert policy influence. In some situations the researcher 'goes over to the other side' and actually determines and drafts new policy documents, so is in a position to make policy.

Clearly, the worlds of 'research' and 'policy' are not necessarily separate. In fact there is a long tradition of 'action research' in the social sciences, especially amongst political scientists specialising in local governance.

Many policy makers and practitioners have backgrounds in academic research. There are examples of academics engaging with policy makers as advisers or consultants and then standing for election as politicians.



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On the utilisation of knowledge and the growth of 'bridging institutions' the replacement of academics by consultants is a familiar theme. However, the expanded use of consultants to support policy development and practice in the public sector has many different causes.

The 'connection mode' of knowledge sharing, as described by Tineke Lupi, and the iterative process typical of trans-disciplinary working described by Henrik Nolmark struck a chord with participants, several of whom had personal experiences to relate.

The need for multi-disciplinary approaches is undisputed. However, procedures and methodologies can take over, and there is a risk of diluting content to such an extent that meaningful outcomes of a collaborative exercise are lost.

Tackling 'wicked issues' has led to the emergence – or recognition – of more individuals with skills in, for example, 'knowledge brokerage', networking and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

In the URBACT programme there is a deliberate strategy to link the worlds of research and practice using 'experts' who are allocated to each approved collaborative project. URBACT experts are typically both academics and consultants: they combine skills in analysis, reporting etc with an understanding of policy processes and they fit into both worlds. Moreover, these 'experts' have to a certain extent evolved a common language for discussing the issues they are working on.

The partnership set up in Gothenburg described by Henrik Nolmark has much in common with an URBACT Local Support Group. However, the URBACT Local Support Groups are explicitly connected to practice in cities elsewhere through transnational partnerships.

Links between research and policy around urban issues need to be made at different scales and not only at the level of the municipality or urban region. It is important not to neglect the regional dimension, for example for addressing urban-rural links and effective clustering of settlements of different sizes in a particular locality. Regional governments and agencies often play a role in commissioning research as well as in managing budgets for urban regeneration, including Structural Funds.

At national level, research policy and urban policy are typically the responsibilities of separate ministries. There is a need for more effective cross-departmental working in order to ensure that national research agendas are sufficiently in tune with national urban policy objectives and measures. However, in Sweden a recent project bringing environmental, transport and housing ministries





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together for the first time to work on sustainable cities did not succeed in creating an integrated approach. Politicians asked some very general overarching questions which in the end could not be answered because none of the participants had a sufficiently integrated overview.

Some EU Member States, for example the Netherlands, report that they no longer have an explicit urban policy. Instead, there are common requirements which all urban settlements have to address.

In some countries the autonomy of urban municipalities – and the relatively powerful position of the mayor – may limit the scope for strong national or regional policy for cities.

The need for a multilevel governance approach – as promoted during the recent Belgian Presidency – is increasingly recognised. An important aspect of this is to ensure that national or EU policy frameworks and procedures do not impede the development and implementation of innovative local solutions to urban challenges.

#### **International collaboration: ensuring representation from across Europe**

Representation at this seminar was largely from North West Europe. The biggest urban problems occur in regions which are often unrepresented at meetings like this. However, in programmes like URBACT and INTERREG IVC the inclusion of partners from across the whole of Europe and from Competitiveness and Convergence regions is a requirement. In the testing phase of the European Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities the participation of urban local authorities from all over Europe was an important condition for the testing itself.

There is perceived to be too much of a focus on large cities at EU level. In fact the European urban system is characterised by small and medium sized towns. Greater attention needs to be given in research and exchange of experience programmes to the challenges and characteristics of these more modest urban places.

Language continues to be a barrier to effective international collaboration, especially when transnational partners seek to work closely with local practitioners in individual cities. For academics the increasing requirement to publish in English in order to reach a wide readership may also be a barrier. For example, French social researchers rarely publish in English.

It is considered hard enough to reach a common understanding within one country without trying to achieve this across several different countries. However, international collaboration can often bring



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fresh perspectives to work on local issues. This understanding is in fact at the heart of EU programmes for exchange of good practice and cooperation and the European Commission's initiative Regions for Economic Change.

In general, insufficient attention tends to be given to 'networking the networks', both within projects and more generally. Partners in international collaboration projects (such as URBAN-NET) or international *fora* such as the UDG need to capitalise upon the links which their members have with other organisations. Mapping the extended connections of partners is recommended. At European level, more effective coordination between formal networking organisations and committees is required.

### **Treatment of urban issues In EU programmes**

Although there has been much past work on urban issues within the EU institutions as well as in intergovernmental settings, there is currently no formal statement of urban policy at EU level, reflecting the fact that urban policy is not an EU competence.

In considering the EU policy context, participants were reminded not to lose sight of the EU's Territorial Agenda and the need to reinforce the urban dimension.

The initiative *Exploring Urban Futures*, which is part of Social Polis, is contributing to further development of the 'rationale' for EU urban interventions based on the challenges for European cities arising from the establishment of the EU itself and development of its various policies and measures. (For example, the opening of borders has encouraged large scale migration to certain cities, with resulting challenges in many urban neighbourhoods; EU environmental Directives place some specific obligations on all large cities.)

The range of EU funding programmes relevant for both urban research and practical work in cities is 'impressive but flabbergasting'.

There is a need for further 'stock-taking' of opportunities, take-up, outcomes and impacts of EU programmes for urban research and policy-related activities in the urban field, especially within Member States.



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Better oversight and coordination – or even integration – of these programmes is required. However, a more systematic review of the coordination and management arrangements that already exist should be undertaken before any new structures are proposed.

The European Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities is one example of an integrative tool. However, this is a tool for cities to use and not an instrument for joined-up working within national governments or the European Commission, for example. Ways still need to be found to promote better-coordinated action on urban policy, and on the links between urban policy and urban research, within national administrations and the EU institutions.

Within the European Commission the urban inter-service group chaired by DG Regional Policy goes some way towards ensuring coordinated action across the various Directorates General. However, some participants considered that there is still insufficient communication between DG Regio and DG Research, and between DG Regio and DG Social Affairs. DG Environment is poorly engaged, despite the current focus on sustainability and some key environmental issues such as biodiversity and adaptation to climate change in urban areas.

There is no doubting the fact that urban issues are on the EU agenda, especially in the context of Cohesion policy. The European institutions – especially the European Parliament and Committee of the Regions – along with participants of programmes like URBACT, urban networks like EURO CITIES and city mayors are all in a strong position to influence this agenda. From a knowledge perspective, EUKN will organise its annual conference and publish a book on this topic in the course of 2011.

Concerted action can lead to the acceptance of particular problems as new issues for the EU. This happened recently with housing, for example. There is continued scope to lobby for more explicit attention to urban research.

The lack of an explicit urban theme in FP7 – and in early discussions for 'FP8' - is a concern. It is currently difficult for urban researchers outside government to identify and make use of relevant outputs from previous or on-going work supported by the Framework programmes. In the absence of a specific urban programme – or indeed an agreed definition of 'urban' - it is hard to locate projects relevant for urban policy, and in any case much information on approved projects is not publicly accessible through searchable databases.

However, the European Commission's publication of the Green Paper *Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation Funding* and accompanying consultation offers an



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opportunity tackle these problems, and specifically to propose the development of a specific urban key action for the next funding period.

### **Strategies and further actions**

In identifying points for action there was general agreement on the need for continuing attention to:

- dialogue between the research and policy communities;
- more inclusive representation in all activities;
- the availability of funding;
- coordination of policy, programmes and actions, including 'networking the networks'.

In considering dialogue, collaboration between researchers themselves also needs to be improved. Although FP7, in particular, requires universities to cooperate in investigating major challenges, in fact there is still enormous rivalry between institutions.

Actions are needed both within Member States and at EU level to build bridges between urban policy and policy for research.

### **Within Member States**

There is a need for national governments to promote:

- *cross-departmental working* within and between national ministries on an urban research agenda more closely linked to urban policy; and
- engagement with the *regional and local dimensions* of both urban policy and urban research within their own Member States.

For example, national governments could assess their arrangements to:

- enable regional governments or agencies to play a more effective part in the formal management of EU research programmes;
- promote complementary delivery of Structural Funds and other EU programmes, including those for research and innovation, at regional level – as called for in recent Communications from the European Commission;

- consult urban local authorities on their research needs and link development of integrated urban management plans for JESSICA funding to research and knowledge generated at local level; and
- ensure that EU-funded research results are more accessible – and available quickly – to policy makers, especially those in cities.

National civil servants responsible for urban policy also need to have an overview of the take up of various EU programmes (such as INTERREG and URBACT) which support exchange of experience and learning on urban sustainability by local authorities in their own Member States. EUKN can play an important role in this respect.

Efforts need to be made:

- to evaluate the impacts of this participation in EU programmes on urban policy and practice in different countries; and
- to secure complementary use of these programmes by cities.

#### **At EU level**

Participants stressed the need for further mapping of the ‘urban policy and research landscape’ – especially identifying all key players – and for a more thorough assessment of existing EU programmes before further actions are proposed.

In fact EU programmes are already designed to foster collaborative working between academics, policy makers and practitioners – and also the private sector, which often means an opening for consultants. In FP7 People, for example, there are opportunities for universities, other public bodies and private enterprises to set up collaborative partnerships. In FP 7 Capacities the Regions of Knowledge programme is specifically designed to foster the development of clusters of innovation through the collaborative action of local or regional authorities, universities and enterprises (the so-called ‘triple helix’).

There needs to be more awareness that this is the case and more effective exploitation of the opportunities these arrangements provide.



As regards mechanisms which are already in place to enable communication and dialogue between the urban policy community and research commissioners, it is important not to underestimate the opportunities which already exist to influence the EU research agenda. Formal procedures exist for determining the content of Calls for Proposals. The European Technology Platforms (ETPs)<sup>1</sup> are highly influential. Could there be the equivalent of a European Technology Platform for urban stakeholders or a Public Private Partnership for Research Activities for urban issues<sup>2</sup>? Similarly, does the UR&KWG have a connection to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)?<sup>3</sup>

On the question of urban 'mainstreaming' vs. a dedicated urban research programme, participants at the seminar supported the call for a new urban budget, perhaps similar to the Key Action City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage in FP5, whilst recognising that this would be difficult to secure without a firmer policy basis and in the face of strong competition from other policy areas for scarce resources.

Participants were also generally supportive of the proposed Joint Programming Initiative *Urban Europe*, although mindful of the fact that questions exist as to whether the creation of JPIs will lead to a reduction of EU-wide funding opportunities within 'FP8' in those thematic areas in which they are set up.

Design of any new urban research programme needs to include representation from across the EU, and more generally to reflect an agreed EU-wide agenda rather than the interests of a restricted lobby.

In order to counter the over-focus on large cities in European discussions on urban policy, the establishment of an observatory on small and medium sized European cities could be recommended.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/home_en.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=newsalert&year=2009&na=ppp-310309>

<sup>3</sup> <http://eit.europa.eu/>

## ***Conclusions and recommendations***

The final session of the day brought all the participants together for feedback from the interactive sessions and discussion on action points to be taken forward. There was general agreement on the need to pay more attention to ‘mapping out the (EU) landscape’ for urban policy makers and the research community, in particular to raise awareness of the opportunities which are *already provided* within existing EU programmes to encourage direct communication between academics and practitioners, at least at ‘project level’ and within cities. In general there are too many different programmes and networks. Better coordination – maybe even rationalisation – is required. Assessment of the impacts on policy of a great deal of previous EU-funded urban research is overdue. At national and EU levels there is a continuing need to provide mechanisms for dialogue between the urban research and policy communities, since this is ‘not going to happen spontaneously’. A response to the Green Paper on a future EU framework for research and innovation is clearly a priority and needs to be accomplished before the consultation deadline in May.

DG Research & Innovation is currently carrying out an impact assessment for the proposed new programme, including some stocktaking on the impacts of research undertaken in FP6 and FP7 on EU policy in different fields. Options for the new programme will be published in due course.

Discussions need to continue with DG Research and Innovation on future funding for urban research and it is worth lobbying for a dedicated urban programme. With decisions on the JPIs postponed until the next EU Presidency, the adoption of the JPI *Urban Europe* is by no means assured.

UDG representatives present at the seminar remarked on the number of issues around the interface between policy and research which have been exposed since the Swedish Presidency meeting in Stockholm in 2009. Some concerns were expressed about the size of the agenda. The UDG will not be in a position to tackle all recommended actions, so there is a need to prioritise follow-up activities and to ensure that actions which could best be taken by other stakeholders are identified. Expansion of the UR&K Working Group may be required.



Three **areas for further action** were broadly agreed:

1. transnational aspects of urban policy (EU, member states);
2. strategic engagement with the EU policy framework for research and innovation;
3. Continued promotion of closer cooperation between the urban research community and the urban policy community.

This led to the following recommendations (addressees are in italics and between brackets):

**1. On the transnational aspects of urban policy (EU, member states)**

It would be advantageous to consolidate the urban agenda at the levels transcending the member state level by using the existing EU mechanisms. It would be appropriate to liaise with the European Parliament's Urban Intergroup if this is taken forward.

**National representatives are recommended to:**

- a) produce a synthesis document based on the presentation by Eduardo de Santiago Rodriguez outlining the scope to use EU funding programmes for urban research or other activities on urban sustainability (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*);
- b) ensure that EU2020 has a territorial dimension, including specific reference to urban areas; (*UDG/DGs/ ministers*);
- c) call on the European Commission to prepare an updated Communication establishing the EU framework for action on urban sustainability, including an agenda for urban research and provision for funded activities that encourage or require direct collaboration between urban policy makers and researchers (*UDG/DGs/ministers*);
- d) develop a Council Recommendation or Council Decision on Sustainable Urban Development. (*UDG/DGs/ministers*).





## 1. On strategic engagement with the EU policy framework for research and innovation

There is scope for both policy makers and research commissioners in the urban field to more fully exploit the EU policy framework for research and innovation.

### National representatives are recommended to:

- a) commission or call for an assessment of the impact of urban research carried out in FP5, FP6 and FP7 on the development of urban policy and measures at different governmental levels; (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*);
- b) brief urban ministers on any opportunities to influence FP7 work programmes for the remaining period (*UDG*);
- c) enable urban ministers to engage with representatives of their national governments responsible for oversight and management of current FP7 and discussions of the future Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding - to inform them of the urban agenda; (*UDG*);
- d) draft a response to the Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*);
- e) establish contact with the European Parliament's Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee (responsible for FP7 and CIP) and the Committee of the Regions' Commission for Education, Youth and Research. Discover their positions on the future programmes and whether they are calling for specific urban research (*UDG, URBAN-NET*);
- f) explore whether adoption of Urban Europe JPI by the Council will reduce the chances of an EU programme for urban research in the new Common Strategic Framework and establish a position on this (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*).



## **2. On continued promotion of closer cooperation between the urban research community and the urban policy community**

It is appropriate to acknowledge the existence of some recently-established mechanisms for closer working between policy makers and academics in FP7. There may be scope to improve them in future programmes.

### **National representatives are recommended to:**

- a) explore whether there are any organisational models for a new urban 'dialogue platform' amongst existing structures linked to FP7 (eg ETP, KTC... ) (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*);
- b) evaluate relevant parts of the FP7 Capacities programme, especially Regions of Knowledge (*Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group*);
- c) lobby for continued and expanded opportunities for direct collaboration between the urban policy community and urban research community in future programmes (*All*).



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## Next steps

Mart Grisel outlined the next steps for URBAN-NET and the UDG. A report of this meeting will be available to all participants, along with copies of the presentations. It is anticipated that the report will also be distributed more widely, for example to members of the European Parliament's Urban Intergroup.

The UDG Urban Research & Knowledge Working Group will present the conclusions and recommendations at the meeting of Directors-General scheduled to take place on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 in Budapest. Some follow-up might also be provided via the URBAN-NEXUS project, if finally approved for funding. The UDG Working Group will be invited to take part in the activities of this coordination support project.

In conclusion, Mart Grisel thanked the participants for their contributions and anticipated their continuing involvement as work on the European urban agenda goes forward.



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## Annexes

- Annex 1 Programme UDG/URBAN-NET Seminar
- Annex 2 List of participants
- Annex 3 Presentations



## Annex1: Programme UDG/URBAN-NET Seminar

9:00 – 9:30	Reception of participants	
9:30 – 9:45	Introduction	Julien Van Geertsom, Chair PPS Social Integration, anti- Poverty Policy, Social Economy and Federal Urban Policy
9:45 – 10:00	Existing and upcoming structures linking policy and research	Eduardo de Santiago Rodríguez, Spain/UDG
10:00 – 10:10	Reaction by the European Commission	Astrid Kaemena, DG Research & Innovation
10:10 – 10:20	Joint Programming Initiative	Hester Menninga, vice executive director of the JPI interim management board
10:20 – 10:30	Innovative models for facilitating a more effective exchange between policy and research	
	(1) Presentation Urban-net paper on new models for evidence based policy making	Tineke Lupi, Nicis Institute
	(2) Presentation on Knowledge Arenas	Henrik Nolmark, Mistra Urban Futures
11:10 – 11:30	Questions	
11:30 – 11:40	Continuation in break-out rooms for the interactive sessions (coffee & refreshments served in the break-out rooms)	
11:40 – 13:00	Optimising the link between research and policy – Interactive session in sub-groups Part I: brainstorming	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:45	Optimising the link between research and policy – Interactive session in sub-groups Part II: strategies and further actions	
14:45 – 15:00	Break	
15:00 – 16:00	Conclusions, recommendations, next steps, with contributions from stakeholders	Wim Hafkamp & Liz Mills
16:00 – 17:00	Network drink	



## ***Annex 2: List of Participants***

<b>Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Country</b>
Andersson	Klas	Mistra Urban Futures	Sweden
Baeten	Rik	Public Service Social Integration - Unit urban policy	Belgium
Bertrand	Vallet	Plan Urbanisme Construction Architecture	France
Christiaens	Etienne	Politique des Grandes Villes	Belgium
De Haes	Jan	EUROCITIES	Belgium
De Santiago	Eduardo	Ministry of Public Works	Spain
Demeyere	Frank	Cabinet du Ministre des Grandes Villes	Belgium
Drozd	Anna	Eurocities	Belgium
Ebert	Julia	EUROCITIES	Belgium
Franke	Jan	Eurocities	Belgium
Göransson	Ola	Ministry of the Environment	Sweden
Graham	June	SNIFFER	United Kingdom
GRIMA	Marie-Claire	Ministry of ecology, energy	France
Grisel	Mart	Nicis Institute / EUKN	Netherlands
Hafkamp	Wim	Nicis Institute	Netherlands
Houk	Melody	URBACT Secretariat	France
Jensen	Jarle	Ministry of the Environment	Norway
Kaemena	Astrid	European Commission, DG RTD	Belgium
Kelder	Tina	European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN)	
Khan Mahsud	Ahmed Zaib	K U Leuven	Belgium
Kort	Edo	Ministry of the Interior	Netherlands
Lupi	Tineke	Nicis Institute	Netherlands
Menninga	Hester	European Metropolitan network Institute (EMI)	Netherlands
Mills	Liz		United Kingdom
Nolmark	Henrik	Mistra Urban Futures	Sweden
Okkema	Annemieke	Nicis Institute	Netherlands
Peroni	Guido	SIRS	Belgium
Petri	Thilo	TÜV Rheinland	Germany
Rakesh	Bhana	European investment Bank	Belgium



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Schylberg	Katarina	Delegation for Sustainable Cities	Sweden
Tosics	Ivan	Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest	Hungary
Van Geertsom	Julien	Public Service Social Integration - Unit urban policy	Belgium
Vanhué	Laura	European Parliament	Belgium
Vranken	Jan	Centre OASeS - University of Antwerp	Belgium

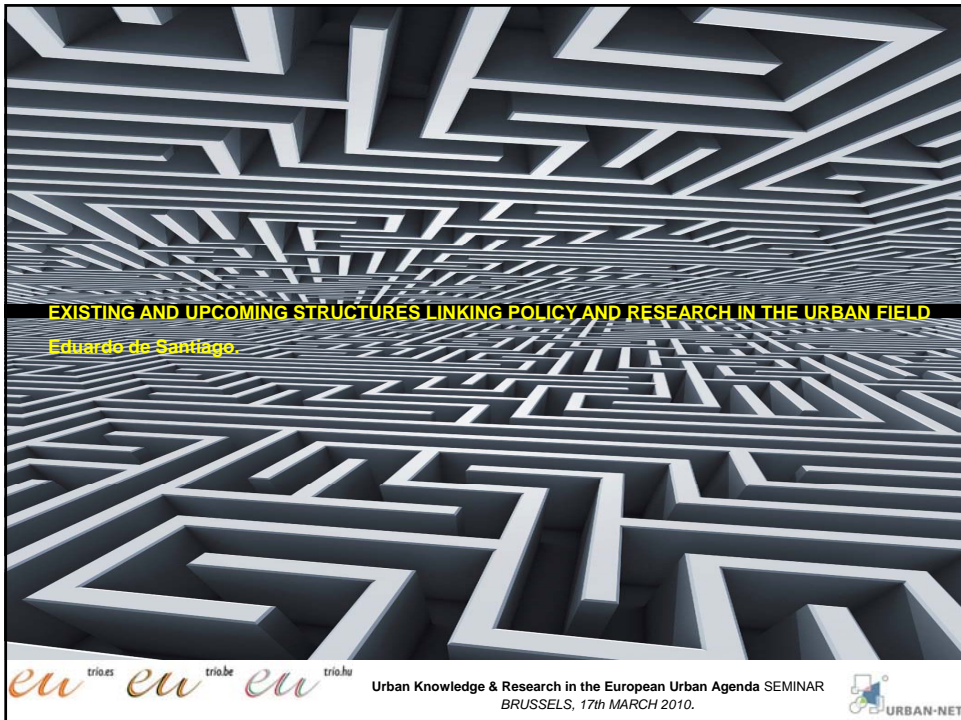


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### ***Annex 3: Presentations***





**EXISTING AND UPCOMING STRUCTURES LINKING POLICY AND RESEARCH IN THE URBAN FIELD**  
 Eduardo de Santiago

**Why is the urban dimension important?...**

**What is specific of urban issues?...**

**Place matters...Scales...**

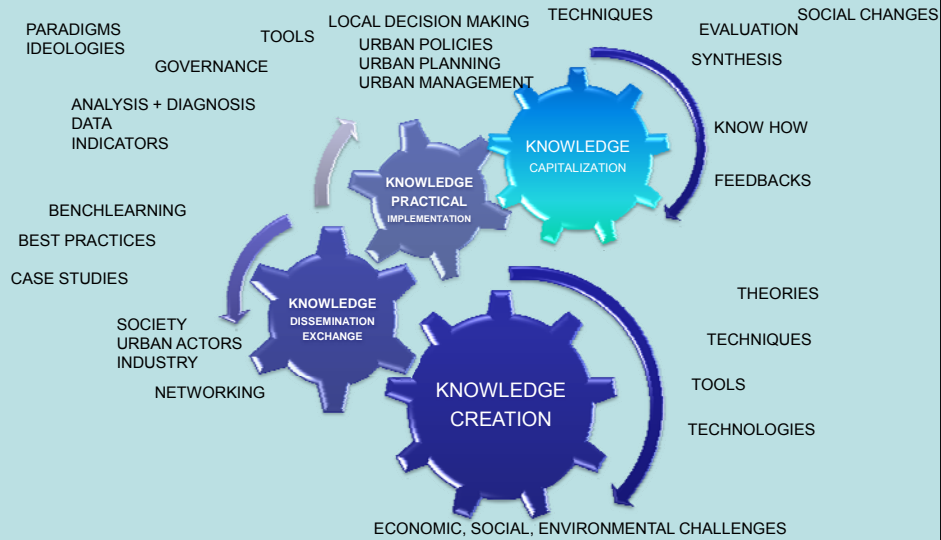
- Global
- European (EU Institutions)
- European (Intergovernmental)
- National
- Regional
- Urban
- District-Neighbourhood level
- Urban Design
- Architecture

**Integrated approach...**

- 4D Urban Sustainability:
- Economic
- Social
- Environmental
- Governance

## Urban Knowledge Cycles...

*Urban knowledge* should be action-oriented, multidisciplinary and contextually defined. It is about bringing about practical improvements for cities and their citizens.



eu tri.az eu tri.be eu tri.o.hu

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## The Gaps...



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## Panoramic review of existing structures.... At European level...



Urban Knowledge & Research in the European Urban Agenda SEMINAR  
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<http://www.cost.eu/tud>

<http://www.cost.esf.org/>

**COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, set up in 1971 by 19 European countries together with the EU allowing the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level.**

Each COST Action is a network centred around nationally-funded research projects in fields that are of interest to at least five COST countries. Activities are launched following a "bottom-up" approach, meaning that the initiative of launching a COST Action comes from the European researchers themselves. The topics for which COST actions can be applied for are open and are freely chosen only by the proposing scientists. Researchers who wish to launch a new Action first submit a short proposal to the continuous COST Open Call for Proposals, which is then evaluated by the Domain Committee. COST does not fund research itself but supports the networking of nationally-funded research activities such as conferences, short-term scientific exchanges and publications. An Action brings together researchers from a minimum of 5 countries and has an average annual budget of approximately € 100 000.

**COST is organised in 9 domains: Transport and Urban Development (TUD). TUD fosters research coordination in the fields of transport and the built environment, which play a strategic role in the modern society and economy.**

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European Commission  
**Research & Innovation**



[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm)

**FP7 is the short name for the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. This is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe and it will run from 2007-2013.**

**The broad objectives of FP7 have been grouped into four categories: Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities. For each type of objective, there is a specific programme corresponding to the main areas of EU research policy.**

 <b>Cooperation</b>	 <b>Ideas</b>	 <b>People</b>	 <b>Capacities</b>
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Cooperation:  
Budget: € 32 413 million (2007 - 2013)  
10 Thematic Areas:

- Health
- Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
- Energy
- Environment (including Climate Change)
- Transport (including Aeronautics)
- Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities
- Space
- Security

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[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

**Is there a place for Urban Issues in FP7?**

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## Is there a place for Urban Issues in FP7?

### Once upon a time... in FP5...

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[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

## Is there a place for Urban Issues in FP7?

### Once upon a time... in FP5... Key Action 4: City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage



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**SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME**

**CURRENT FP 7 BUDGET:**


**TOTAL COOPERATION: €32 413 million (2007 - 2013)**

ENVIRONMENT (including Climate Change): €1 890 million

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES AND THE HUMANITIES : €623 million

TRANSPORT : €4 160 million

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTs): €9 050 million

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[http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index_en.cfm)

**SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME**

Climate change	●
Natural hazards	●
Environment and health	●
Natural resources management	●
Biodiversity	●
Marine environment	●
Land and Urban management	●
Environmental technologies	●
Earth observation	●
Tools for sustainable development	●
Cultural heritage	●

**Examples of Projects from FP6:**

- ACTOR : Aalborg Commitments Tools and Resources
- RAISE: Raising Citizens and Stakeholders Awareness, Acceptance and Use of new regional and urban sustainability approaches in Europe
- STATUS: Sustainability Tools and Targets for the Urban Thematic Strategy
- TISSUE: Trends and Indicators for Monitoring the EU Thematic Strategy on Sustainable Development of Urban Environment
- URBAN MATRIX: Targeted Knowledge Exchange on Urban Sustainability

**Examples of Projects from FP 7:**

- BRIDGE: sustainaBle uRban plannIng Decision support accountinG for urban mEtabolism
- SUME: Sustainable Urban Metabolism for Europe
- VOLANTE: Visions Of LANd use Transitions in Europe
- PRIMUS: Policies and research for an integrated management of urban sustainability

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## PRIMUS: Policies and Research for an Integrated Management of Urban Sustainability

<http://informed-cities.iclel-europe.org/>



The **Informed Cities initiative** – making research work for local sustainability - is a European project which aims to enhance the connectivity between research and policy-making in sustainable development, with a focus on tools for urban management.

This will be done by bringing together researchers and policy-makers in a series of events linking into and building upon each other, as well as by examining the connectivity between research and policy-making by examples, in the course of the explorative application of two research-based tools for urban sustainability management.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Establishing dialogue between European researchers and policy-makers on local sustainable development, encouraging a back and forth information flow and building lasting contacts between both groups
- Examining and evaluating the process of knowledge brokerage, based on explorative application of selected research-based urban management tools by 100 local governments across Europe
- Demonstrating the potential of a strengthened connectivity between research and policy-making through cross-linking data on governance processes with data on policies and outcomes for urban sustainability
- Engaging with key stakeholders on national and European level to mobilize their support for the brokerage process and dissemination of project results to a wider audience



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## URBAN-NEXUS - Furthering Strategic Urban Research

The URBAN-NEXUS is a coordination action funded by FP7 which will **build upon and strengthen the relationship between stakeholders and policy-making** through engagement, collaborative prioritisation, integral dialogue and knowledge transfer. **URBAN-NEXUS will further the long-term strategic framework for scientific cooperation through a collaborative approach which bridges the gap between research, policy and implementation.**

**Objective 1:** Promote innovative **problem-solving** approaches to the complex and interrelated policy issues concerning sustainable urban development;

**Objective 2:** Increase awareness, knowledge exchange, cooperation and collaboration through **structured dialogue; Exchange, Cooperation and Collaboration**

**Objective 3.** Further the Long-term Strategic Framework for Scientific Cooperation through the enabling and building of **partnerships**.

**Means:** Collaboration, knowledge-exchange and partnership-building.

The **working themes** of the Work Packages are:

- adapting to climate change;
- health and quality of life;
- sustainable land-use;
- integrated urban management;
- integrated information and monitoring.



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A to Z | Sitemap | Search | About this site

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**Research & Innovation - SSH**

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

European Commission > Research > SSH

Sitemap  
 Links

Find Funding  
 Research in SSH  
 Forward looking activities  
 Policy briefs and reviews, databases and research achievements  
 eLibrary

World and European Sustainable Cities  
 Insights from EU research

SSH Research funded before 2007

The European Commission has funded research into the social and humanities (SSH) since 1994. Information on projects successive framework programmes is readily available in website.

Research projects funded in the period 2002-2006

Most of the projects funded in the period 2002-2006, under Programme (FP6), have been finalised. A complete synopsis available.

Future research  
 Current Initiatives  
 Ongoing research  
 Completed research

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SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

**social polis**

<http://www.socialpolis.eu/>

**“Social Polis” is a platform for the development of a research agenda and scientific dialogue addressing the role of cities and social cohesion and inclusion.**

Its central purpose is to engage significant stakeholders from the scientific, civil society and governance sectors in establishing key scientific and policy issues for the agenda, informing focussed and coherent calls for proposals on the socio-economic sciences and humanities (SSH) thematic priority of the FP7.

Social Polis mobilised a wide range of relevant findings, recommendations and scientific/practitioner networks from previous research projects under the 4th, 5th and 6th Framework Programmes. Building on these experiences, Social Polis organised consultation with a wide network of researchers and other stakeholders, including small-scale workshops and one large scale final conference.

Social Polis made four substantive contributions:

- a focused, critical review of research on cities and social cohesion;
- a focused agenda of effective research proposed for FP7;
- establishment of a social platform of and for scientific, policy and practice stakeholders for these purposes;
- production of educational resources for stakeholders.

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### Political aspects:

In the Toledo Declaration: *“The Ministers also asked the Commission to consider the urban dimension within the Seventh Framework Programme currently in effect, and stressed the importance to continue supporting it in the future.”*

Consultation process about the *“Green paper on the future of EU research and innovation funding”*, presented on 9th February. (Open until 20th May).

### The succesful continuity in CIVITAS initiative:

The screenshot shows the CIVITAS website interface. At the top, it says "Cleaner and better transport in cities". The navigation menu includes "CIVITAS Cities", "CIVITAS Measures", "Download Center", "People", and a language dropdown set to "English". The main content area features a grid of project highlights: "CIVITAS ACTIVITY FUND", "Public transport priority system", "CIVITAS Plus II Call with new EAQ", "CIVITAS Forum 2011", "How to become a member of CIVITAS FORUM", "Paying for parking by phone", "Inform odd interchanges", "Car pooling in Perugia", and "ICL in traffic management". Below this grid, there is a section titled "CIVITAS Initiative" with a description: "The CIVITAS Initiative helps cities to achieve a more sustainable, clean and energy efficient urban transport system by implementing and evaluating an ambitious, integrated set of technology and policy based measures." This is followed by a "News from CIVITAS Cities / CIVITAS Projects" section with a bulleted list of recent updates.

**CIVITAS I** started in early 2002 (within the 5th Framework Research Programme);  
**CIVITAS II** started in early 2005 (within the 6th Framework Research Programme) and  
**CIVITAS PLUS** started in late 2008 (within the 7th Framework Research Programme).

## What about national, regional, local initiatives ?

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## What about national, regional, local initiatives ?



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What about national, regional, local initiatives ?



Fragmentation, lack of coordination, etc.

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What about **the coordination**  
of national, regional, local initiatives ?

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European Commission  
**EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA**

The European Research Area is composed of all research and development activities, programmes and policies in Europe which involve a transnational perspective. There are a number of fully integrated European-level structures and programmes: the EU RTD FP, including the current FP7 (2007-2013), as well as a number of intergovernmental infrastructures and research organisations.


**BUT...Other structures and Programmes are not still integrated.**

Most research activities, programmes and policies take place at regional and national levels, but no single country offers sufficient resources to be competitive on the world scale. To strengthen ERA, such activities and policies should be increasingly designed and operated from a transnational perspective, including, where relevant, cross-border co-operation. Transnational co-operation helps make the most efficient and effective use of national and regional resources.



- ERANETs
- Article 185 of the EU Treaty (ex 169)
- Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI)

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<http://www.urban-net.org/>

**URBAN-NET is the URBAN ERANET, financed by FP6.**

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 FP 6 Programme under the European Research Area Network (ERA-N ET) initiative.

Aims


- \* **Stimulate and coordinate research funding to address some of the most pressing issues in urban sustainability in Europe.**
- \* **Bring together stakeholders that want to develop innovative policies for tackling urban issues.**
- \* **Identify and address transnational requirements for research and sharing of good practice in research programme management.**
- \* **Support the implementation of the European Research Area in the urban research field.**
- Support the development of European legislation, policy and strategies.**

URBAN-NET has wide geographical and cultural representation through its membership of 16 partners from 13 countries.


The project is managed by a consortium formed by these partners and run for five years from August 2006 to April 2011.

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 **URBAN-NET**

**Main Outputs and results:**  
**Searchable Research Programmes Database**



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 **URBAN-NET**

 **URBAN-NET**



**Main Outputs and results:**  
**Strategic Research Framework in the field of Urban Sustainability:**



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 **URBAN-NET**

**Main Outputs and results:**


**Two Transnational Research Calls:**


Pilot Call (2008)

Final Call (2009): Climate Change, Sustainable Land Use and Integrated Management in an Urban Context: *Urban response to global challenges*.


**URBAN NET Research Anthology 2010.**

1. SUPER Sustainable Urban Planning for Ecosystem services and Resilience;
2. Dilemmas of participatory network planning. Sustainability, democracy and planning in France, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden;
3. Potential impact of climate trends and weather extremes on outdoor thermal comfort in European cities - implications for sustainable urban design;
4. Consumer Logistics: Understanding mundane use of container technologies for mobility in consumption and its relevance for sustainable European Cities; and
5. Chronotope: Time-Space Planning for Resilient Cities? New Means of Sustainable Planning in Societies of Consumption.

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European Commission  
**EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA**



## Joint Programming


**What is Joint Programming?**

The overall aim of Joint Programming is to pool national research efforts in order to make better use of Europe's public R&D resources and to tackle common European challenges more effectively in a few key areas.

It will follow a structured strategic process whereby Member States agree common visions and strategic research agendas to address major societal challenges.

Joint Programming is a new process combining a strategic framework, a bottom-up approach and high-level commitment from Member States.

Suitable JP initiatives have been identified by a High Level Group (GPC). The European Council, upon a proposal by the Commission, will recommend a limited number of areas in which to implement JPI in priority. From there on, participation of Member States in each initiative is "à la carte", based on voluntary commitments leading to partnerships composed of variable groups of countries.

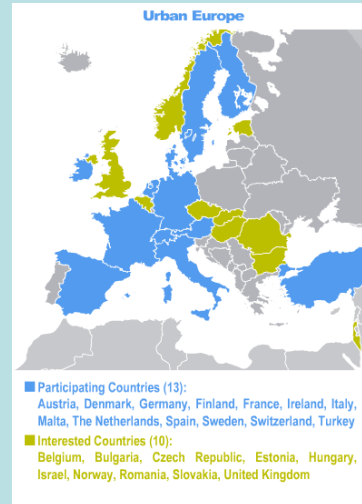
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## JPI URBAN EUROPE

<http://www.era.gv.at/space/11442/directory/13047.html>

For each JPI, participating countries will start with:

- Developing a shared vision for the area;
  - Defining a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) and SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound); and
  - Preparing for implementation of the SRA by analysing the options, assessing expected impacts and defining the best mix of instruments to be used.
- The planned JPI "URBAN EUROPE" aims at tackling some of the fundamental problems modern economies and societies are facing today. These problems include, inter alia, securing sustainable energy supply, securing society's demand for (individual) mobility, reducing the ecological footprint of our modern economy and understanding the impacts of demographic change.



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### Political aspects:

In the Toledo Declaration (June 2010), EU Ministers responsible for urban development policies: "(...) thanked [the EC] for driving the European Research Area on urban topics by supporting urban research through the Framework Programmes for RTD in a considerable way and especially by funding the URBAN-NET network. It would be extremely useful to continue beyond 2010 on the path begun by URBAN-NET to coordinate transnational research programmes on urban topics and the intergovernmental funding of calls for transnational projects, and also extend the number of participating countries".



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## Panoramic review of existing structures.... European support for the regional dimension...



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# ESPON

**The ESPON 2013 Programme, the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion, was adopted by the European Commission on 7 November 2007.**

The programme budget of €47 mill is part-financed at the level of 75 % by the European Regional Development Fund under Objective 3 for European Territorial Cooperation. The rest is financed by 31 countries participating, 27 EU Member States and Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

The mission of the ESPON 2013 Programme is to:

*“Support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory by (1) providing comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on territorial dynamics and (2) revealing territorial capital and potentials for development of regions and larger territories contributing to European competitiveness, territorial cooperation and a sustainable and balanced development”.*



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#### ESPON Priorities:

- Priority 1: Applied Research on Territorial Development, Competitiveness and Cohesion
- Priority 2: Targeted Analysis on User Demand
- Priority 3: Scientific Platform and Tools
- Priority 4: Capitalisation, Ownership and Participation
- Priority 5: Technical Assistance, Analytical Support and Communication

#### EXAMPLES OF APPLIED RESEARCH:

- [ARTS](#) - Assessment of Regional and Territorial Sensitivity
- [ATTREG](#) - Attractiveness of European Regions and Cities for Residents and Visitors
- [DEMIFER](#) - Demographic and Migratory Flows Affecting European Regions and Cities
- [EDORA](#) - European Development Opportunities in Rural Areas
- [ESPON CLIMATE](#) - Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies in Europe
- [EU-LUPA](#) - European Patterns of Land Use
- [FOCI](#) - Future Orientation for Cities
- [GEOSPECS](#) - Geographic Specificities and Development Potentials in Europe
- [KIT](#) - Knowledge, Innovation, Territory
- [ReRISK](#) - Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty
- [SGPTD](#) - Secondary growth poles in territorial development
- [TERCO](#) - European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life
- [TIGER](#) - Territorial Impact of Globalization for Europe and its Regions



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#### Political aspects:

In the Toledo Declaration (June 2010), EU Ministers responsible for urban development policies “asked the Commission and national authorities involved to strengthen the analysis of the territorial dimension of urban dynamics within the ESPON Programme”.



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**INTERREG IVC provides funding for interregional cooperation.**

**Its aim is to promote exchange and transfer of knowledge and best practices across Europe.**

**It is implemented under the European Community's territorial co-operation objective and financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

The areas of support are **innovation and the knowledge economy, environment and risk prevention.**

The programme supports two types of projects :

In **Regional Initiative Projects** partners work together to exchange experiences in a policy field of their interest. They can choose between three levels of intensity for their cooperation. These vary from simple networking to the development of policy instruments or the establishment of mini programmes.

In **Capitalisation Projects** partners build on already identified good practices. Capitalisation projects are set up to transfer these good practices into mainstream programmes of EU Structural Funds. This is done by developing action plans and involving relevant policy makers. The European Commission offers additional expertise to some of these projects, named Fast Tract Projects.



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European Union

# INTERact Sharing Expertise

More than 30 professionals from different European countries with many years of project and programme experience based in 5 offices across Europe:

- INTERACT Point Turku • Finland, ip.turku@interact-eu.net
- INTERACT Point Viborg • Denmark, ip.viborg@interact-eu.net
- INTERACT Programme Secretariat • (IS) Bratislava Slovakia, interact@interact-eu.net
- INTERACT Point Vienna • Austria, ip.vienna@interact-eu.net
- INTERACT Point Valencia • Spain, ip.valencia@interact-eu.net

Managing Authority  
Bratislava Self-Governing Region, Slovakia

Total budget  
40 million EUR for the 2007-2013 period (85% ERDF funding and 15% national contributions) co-financed by the Member States, Norway and Switzerland.

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## Regions for Economic Change

Exchanging good practice between Europe's regions

"Regions for Economic Change" is an initiative of the European Commission that aims to highlight good practice in urban and regional development, with a particular focus on innovation, and to speed up the transfer of good practices to enhance the quality and impact of the EU's regional development programmes and their implementation by the EU's Member States and regions. It supports the EU policy objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, as outlined in the EU's 2020 strategy.

Regions for Economic Change is a **learning platform** for EU regions that includes the annual Regions for Economic Change Conference and RegioStars Awards, a PolicyLearning Database and interregional fast track networks, funded by the INTERREG IVC and URBACT II programmes. Those networks are testing innovative ideas and working on their rapid transfer into regional policies and programmes. As such it will also be instrumental to inspire ideas and concepts for regional 'smart specialization' strategies and to maximize regional innovation potential.



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## Panoramic review of existing structures....

### Local initiatives at city level...

An *Urban Knowledge Arena* is described by Henrik Nolmark as:

- A temporary multi-stakeholder collaborative **partnership** of varied backgrounds, professions, expertise and skills;
- A trans-disciplinary **approach** for combining research, knowledge and capacity building based in a specific urban situation
- It should deliver **specific knowledge** which can have an impact on the local urban situation, but also **generic knowledge** contributing to the international state-of-the-art



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# What about Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination?

       <http://www.eukn.org/>

**EUKN- the European Urban Knowledge Network is a intergovernment knowledge network with national focal points in 17 EU Member States, acting as a knowledge hub for existing networks of urban practitioners, researchers and policy-makers at all governmental levels. EUKN is funded by the 17 participating EU Member States.**

EUROCITIES, the URBACT Programme and the European Commission also participate in this European initiative. The EUKN Secretariat is housed at Nicis Institute.

**Objective: To enhance the exchange of knowledge and expertise on urban development throughout Europe, bridging urban policy, research and practice.**

EUKN has developed an extensive, high-quality **knowledge database**, based on shared standards and protocols. This extensive e-library provides free access to case studies, research results, policy documents, context issues, network descriptions, updated news and meetings.

EUKN focuses on the following main themes:

- social inclusion & integration;
- housing;
- transport & infrastructure;
- urban environment;
- economy, knowledge & employment;
- security & crime prevention;
- skills & capacity building.



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URBAN-NET



<http://urbact.eu/>

**URBACT** is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development:

- Enabling **cities** to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal changes.
- Helping **cities** to develop pragmatic **SOLUTIONS** that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions,
- Helping cities to **SHARE** good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe.

**URBACT is jointly financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund) and the Member States.**

**An URBACT project is :**

- 6 to 12 cities (or other partners)
- Cities discussing, sharing and working together for 2 to 3 years
- Cities focussed on a specific urban issue
- Issues linked to sustainable urban development
- Local partners who develop pragmatic Local Action Plans
- Partners developing tools and recommendations for other European cities

**€68,890,739**

URBACT's budget for 2007-2013  
(Including €53,319,170 from the European Regional Development Fund)

44	29	700	5000
Projects totalling 700 cities and partners	Country	Local Support Groups and Local Action Plans	Active participants



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**Research Associations: EURA: European Urban Research Association.**



<http://www.eura.org/>



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The **European Metropolitan network Institute (EMI)** improves the **link between knowledge and urban policy in Europe**, putting more emphasis on the practical use of academic research and accelerating cross-border research, innovation and learning processes for urban practice across the EU.

The mission of EMI is to reinforce the economic and social strength of European metropolitan areas by means of innovative knowledge. EMI's activities are dedicated to accelerating cross-border innovation and learning processes focused on urban issues. EMI interconnects urban regions, European and national organizations, governments and academic knowledge institutions around concrete, relevant questions.

The European Metropolitan network Institute (EMI) offers the following services:

- Academic research (organisation, execution and commissioning of research programmes).
- Dissemination and translation of research results into urban practice
- Capacity building: academy, training and advice.
- Trend analyses, monitoring and evaluation by, with and for metropolitan areas.

### Research and Professional Associations: Transport, Housing, Planning, etc.

The screenshot shows the ECTP-CEU website interface. At the top, it says "Creating our futures" and "ECTP-CEU - Conseil Européen des Urbanistes". The main header features "Transport Research Knowledge Centre" and "European Network for Housing Research". A sidebar on the left contains navigation links like "About ECTP-CEU", "Member's Area", and "Representations". The main content area includes a "Country Profiles" section, a "Programmes" list, and a "Calendarium" with upcoming events such as "SEMINAR ON PRIVATE RENTED MARKETS A/E/W" and "MEETING ENHR WORKING GROUP LEGAL ASPECTS ON HOUSING, LAND AND PLANNING".



## The UR&K “Urban Knowledge and Research Working Group”

### I. TOLEDO DECLARATION (JUNE 2010):

#### Ministers’s commitment to:

continue promoting research, comparative studies and statistics, exchange of best practices and dissemination of knowledge on urban topics, and strengthening coordination of them all.

### II. THE ACTIONS TO DEVELOP THE MINISTERS’ COMMITMENTS IN THE TOLEDO DECLARATION:

- *Set up a small working group associated with the UDG (Urban Research and Knowledge “UR&K” Working Group) to look into the possibilities and define the strategies to foster coordination and reflection on these topics related to urban research and knowledge.*
- *Develop a Scoping Paper with the Objectives of the working group and defining the actions to be carried (this document). This Scoping Paper will be presented and submitted for approval at the Ghent DG meeting (December 14, 2010).*
- *Kick-off Strategic workshop (together with URBAN NET) at Brussels (February, 2011).*
- *Carry on with the actions included in the Scoping Paper.*



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## The UR&K “Urban Knowledge and Research Working Group”

### III. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP.

- a) Coordinate and facilitate the flow of information between Urban Development (UD) policy making and Urban Research (UR) policy making, programming and funding.
- b) Facilitate the process of building the European Research Area (ERA) in the field of urban development, by facilitating intergovernmental coordination: joint programming and joint funding of research calls at transnational level.
- c) Influence EU key Research Programmes and dossiers in order to assure the correct allocation of urban issues and the continuity of EU funding in the future.
- d) Facilitate the flow of information from knowledge-makers to knowledge dissemination points, and the feed of knowledge dissemination points with best practices.
- e) Facilitate the flow of information between informal and applied urban research at local level and local decision making: Local-Urban (City) Knowledge Arenas.



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Thank you for your attention...



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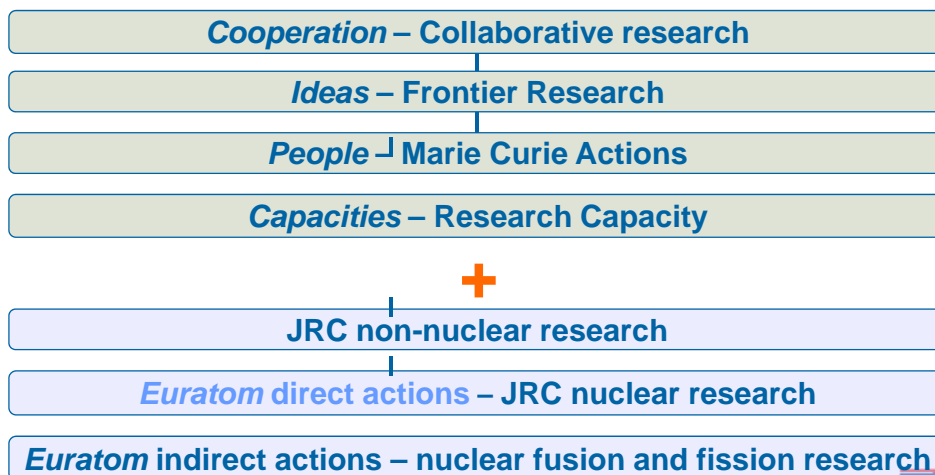
## Structures linking policy and research



*Astrid Kaemena*  
European Commission  
DG Research & Innovation



## 7. Framework Programme 2007-2013



## Cooperation Programme

### Ten themes

	<b>Budget (€ million)</b>
1. Health	6 100
2. Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology	1 935
3. Information and communication technologies	9 050
4. Nanotechnologies, materials and production	3 475
5. Energy	2 350
6. <b>Environment</b>	<b>1 890</b>
7. Transport	4 160
8. Socioeconomic research	623
9. Space	1 430
10. Security	1 400
<b>Total</b>	<b>32 413</b>



3

## FP7 Environment Theme

- **Climate Change, Pollution, and Risks** (indoor air, strategies for prevention and mitigation of **natural hazards**)
- **Management of natural resources and biodiversity** (management and planning of **urban environment**, preservation of **landscape**,...)
- **Environmental Technologies** (includes water, waste, air, soil, **built environment**, cultural heritage, technological assessment...)
- **Earth Observation & Assessment Tools** (forecasting methods, sustainable development & social & economic tensions related to climate change)



4

## FP7-ENV-2011 Call text

### ENV.2011.2.1.5-2 Furthering Strategic Urban Research

- This coordination action will **further the long-term strategic framework for scientific cooperation** related to urban research **by enabling knowledge transfer** and the **building of a structured dialogue**, responding in this way to the following interconnected issues: environment and urban planning, energy, transport, tourism, technology and innovation, governance and education, social equity and cohesion, sustainable consumption; towards the reduction of the "urban ecological footprint".
- It will **promote the importance of open innovation, scientific advice, indicators and data collection** and **ensure the transfer of best practices** adapted to the realities of European cities in view of climate change and natural resource scarcity, in particular "peak oil" and water.
- It will **address complex and policy relevant issues in a problem-solving, integrated way**, through collaborative techniques and wide stakeholder involvement including SMEs.



5

## FP7-ENV-2011 Call text

### ENV.2011.2.1.5-2 Furthering Strategic Urban Research

#### Expected Impact

- The expected impact is, through building upon the current URBAN-NET project, to provide the **opportunity for partnerships** in view of ensuring wide EU27 representation including associated states, cities, civil society organisations and SMEs, municipalities in the field of urban research.
- This will also enable the **establishment of public-public and public-private partnerships**, which are fundamental for the implementation of sustainable urban development and planning.

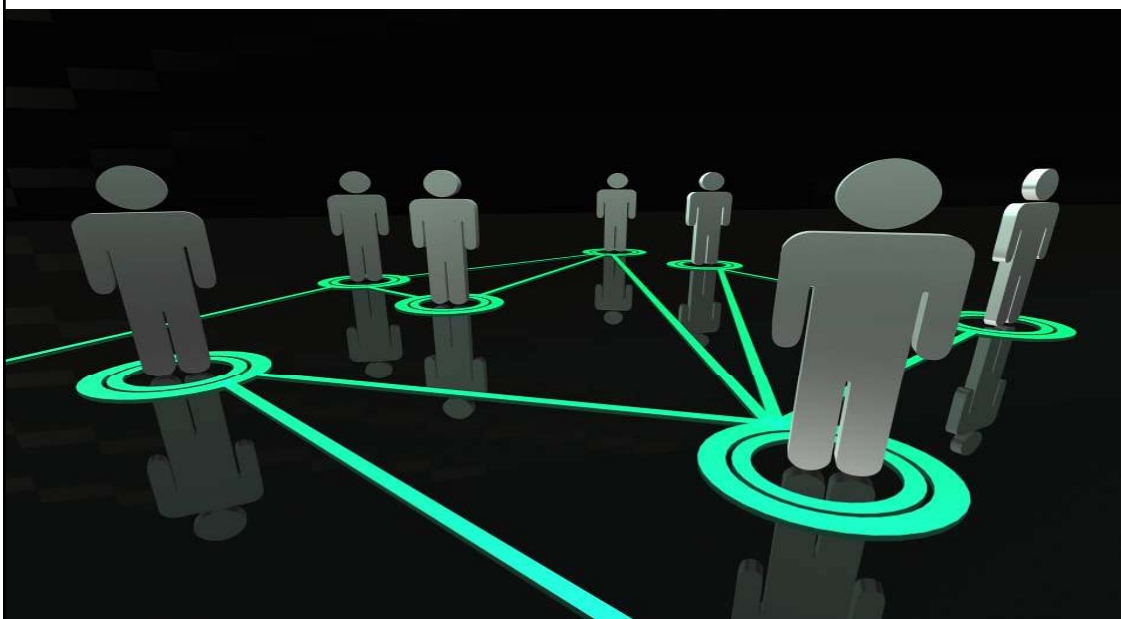


6

# "Science policy interface"



# "Science policy interface"



## What are we looking for?



- ❖ Scientific excellence
- ❖ Impacts and innovation
  - Long-term availability of results
  - Communication/dissemination activities
  - Stakeholder involvement
  - Research-policy interface



**Thank you for your attention!**



## Mission JPI Urban Europe

Urban Europe is a research and innovation initiative of EU Member States and Associated States to the EU Framework Programme and aspires .....to rethink and manage the increasing urban orientation and concentration in Europe in order to create and exploit synergy in an urbanised Europe, from an economic, social, environmental and transport-related perspective, in order to strengthen the global position of Europe.

Progress so far:


- Set up programme-structure
- 3 x GB-meetings
- Policy Vision Workshop
- First draft Scientific Research Agenda (+ workshop)
- Status report
- Ambitions/roadmap for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> phase
- Website: [www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu](http://www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu)

---

4 Urban Images 2050:

- Connected city (physical and virtual networks)
  - Liveable city (smart environmental and energy initiatives)
  - Entrepreneurial city (innovation hub of economic activities)
  - Pioneer city (diverse set skills/innovation in technology)
- Strive for call pilot projects: fall 2011

Check out [www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu](http://www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu) for basic & latest info






**URBAN-NET**

# State of the art in knowledge utilization

Presentation for the UDG/URBAN-NET seminar on  
urban knowledge and research in the European urban  
agenda

Brussels, March 17 2011

Tineke Lupi





**URBAN-NET**

## What we know

As we know, there are known knows.  
There are things we know we know.  
We also know there are known unknowns.  
That is to say we know there are some things we do not know.  
But there are also unknown unknowns.  
The ones we don't know we don't know.

*Donald Rumsfeld 12 February 2002*






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## EU knowledge position

- Great challenges facing Europe
- Internal cohesion & global competition
- Knowledge triangle: research, education, innovation
- EU changed the face of knowledge production
- Need for effective ways of knowledge utilization



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## The linear model



Assumptions:

- Research – development – diffusion
- Good research will find its way
- Policy makers use data directly for decisions

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## Two communities theory



- Research and policy making are different worlds
- Divergence in visions, values, norms, interests, goals, discourses etc.
- Data and knowledge needs do not reach 'the other side'
- Demanded, usable, compatible, transferable, recognisable, comprehensible
- Need to bridge the gap




URBAN-NET

## Factors influencing policy making

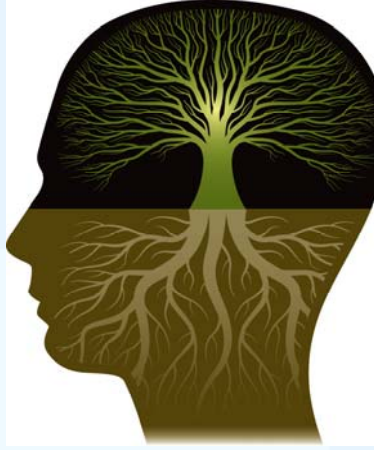







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## Enlightenment function

- The influence of research is indirect
- Data does not lead to concrete policy
- General source of ideas and insights
- Knowledge is used strategically
- Slow transformation of views and paradigms






 


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## Knowledge is socially constructed

Dialogue

	Socialization	Externalization	
Field (Team) Building			Linking Explicit Knowledge
	Internalization	Combination	
Learning by doing			


 


 **URBAN-NET**

## Elements of knowledge transfer

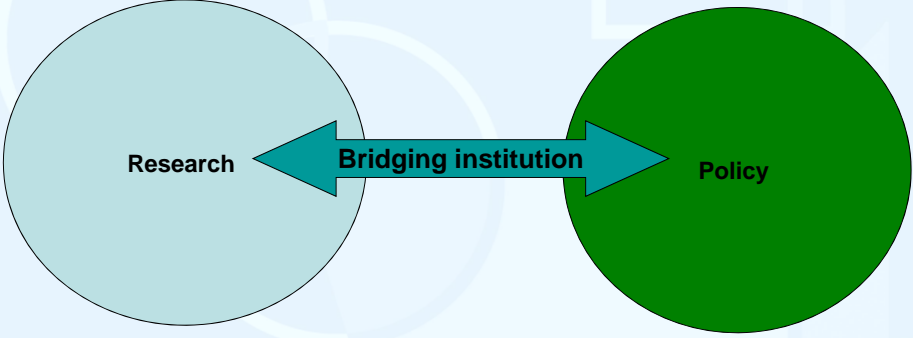
Good communication more important than quality of information

- Source – credible organisation or person
- Content – message being transferred
- Form – tools and techniques
- User – target audience



 

 **URBAN-NET**

## Knowledge utilization through connection



The diagram illustrates the flow of knowledge between two domains: Research and Policy. On the left is a light blue circle labeled "Research". On the right is a dark green circle labeled "Policy". A double-headed teal arrow connects the two circles, with the text "Bridging institution" centered on the arrow. This indicates that a bridging institution facilitates the exchange and utilization of knowledge between research and policy.

## Connection mode


- Knowledge is created in bridging
- Emphasis on content and contacts
- Goal is the best possible solution, knowledge is instrumental
- Creating conditions for knowledge transfer
- Serving innovation by coordination
- Set of standard techniques
- Focus on role of institutions



## Bridges

- Think tanks
- Knowledge institutes
- Advisory councils
- Blue ribbon organisations
- Networks and platforms
- Strategic alliances
- Research consortia
- Expert teams
- Knowledge workers








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## Bridging activities

- Knowledge production: funding and thematic focus
- Knowledge exchange: ordering, translating, disseminating
- Knowledge application: advising, consulting, process management
- Knowledge cognition: teaching and training



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## Tools and techniques

- Funding schemes and research programmes
- Publications: books, reports, articles, news letters
- Websites, forums & blogs
- Databases and E-library's
- Workshops, seminars, meetings, ateliers, conferences
- Master classes, training programmes



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## Some examples

European Urban Knowledge Network

Connecting cities Building successes **URB ACT**

**SURF**

**URBAN MATRIX**

**EUROPEAN URBAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**  
An international network of urban researchers

centreforcities

**ISOCARP**

**URBAN-NET**

## In focus: ODI

**Figure 1: The RAPID Framework: Context, Evidence, and Links**

**External Influences:** Socioeconomic and cultural influences, development and policies, etc.

**Political Context:** Political structures and processes, institutional pressures, prevailing concepts, policy streams and windows, etc.


**Evidence:** Credibility, methods, relevance, use, how the message is packaged and communicated, etc.

**Links:** Policy makers and other stakeholders, relationships, voice trust, networks, the media and other intermediaries etc.

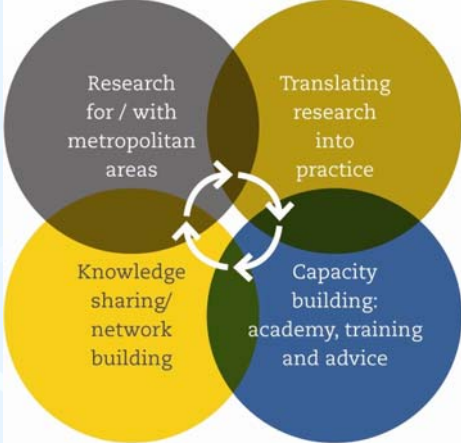
**Campaigning and Lobbying**


**Analysis and Research**



**Scientific Information Exchange and Validation**


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## In focus: NICIS & EMI





**EMI** | European Metropolitan Areas Network Institute 


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## Works well for...

- Relative clear defined problems in a policy tradition
- Well researched and documented issues with an existing expert community
- De-politicised, urgent and current topics
- Traditional government systems with a limited group of stakeholders
- Facilitating contacts and discussion



 




 **URBAN-NET**

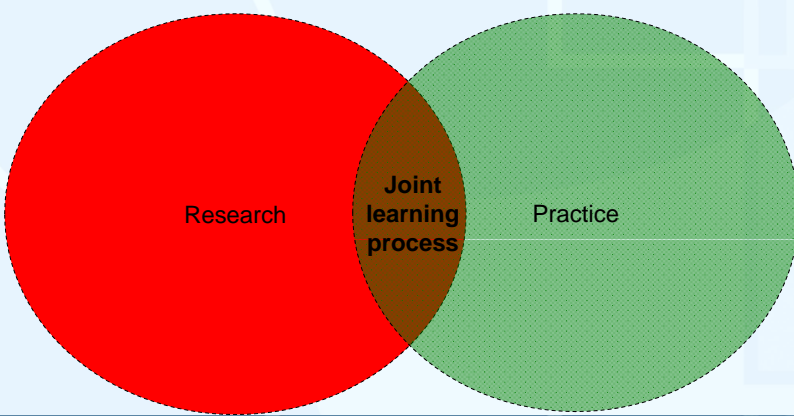
## Limitations

- The influence of knowledge remains indirect – enlightenment principle
- Research is contextual – knowledge bridges can never tell policy makers what to do
- The two communities remain intact and are even amplified
- Knowledge defined by bridging organisation makes it less effective
- Institutionalisation by bridging mechanisms



 

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## Knowledge utilization through Interaction





**Research**      **Joint learning process**      **Practice**

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## Interaction mode

- Knowledge is created in communication
- Focus on both content and process
- Goal is consensus and trust, knowledge is mutual learning
- Creating conditions for participation
- Facilitating innovation
- Taylor made process with several steps
- Focus on individual people

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## Tools and techniques

- Communities of Practice
- Urban Knowledge Arena's
- Public-private partnerships
- Practice & policy communities
- Open platforms & Open dialogues
- Open Spaces & Third spaces
- Joint Fact Finding
- Monitors, frameworks
- ....






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# In focus: RFSC

Welcome Test User - [Log out](#)  EN

 **REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE CITIES**  
A toolkit for the integrated approach

[ABOUT THIS FRAMEWORK](#) [USER'S GUIDE](#) [TOOLS](#) [NETWORKS](#)



*The perfect model for a sustainable city does not exist!*


*Your own creativity, thoughts and involvement will define your own perception of the integrated sustainable urban development approach.*

*This website is designed to help you to think about and develop the integrated approach by raising relevant questions on all aspects of sustainable urban development.*

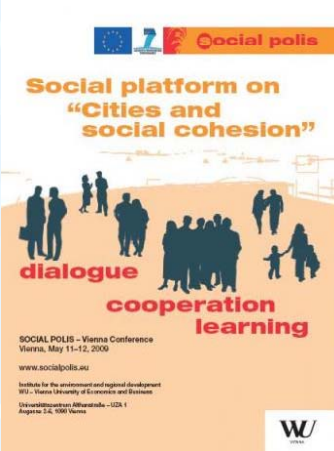
**ECONOMY** **SOCIAL** **ENVIRONMENT** **GOVERNANCE**



RFSC - 2010 // credits

 **URBAN-NET**

# In focus: Social Polis






  **social polis**

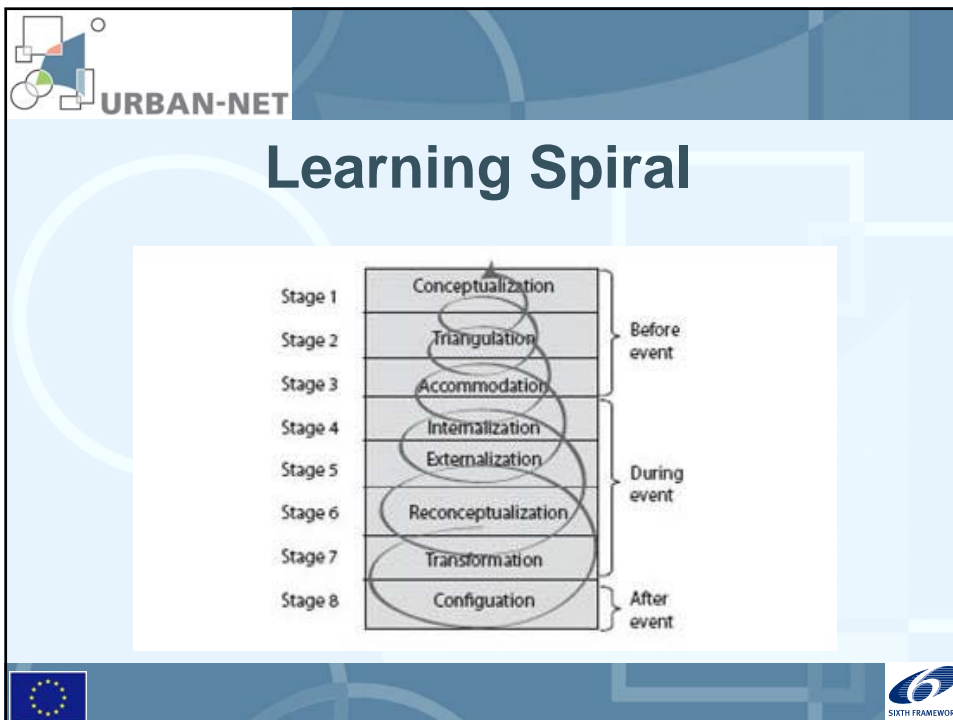
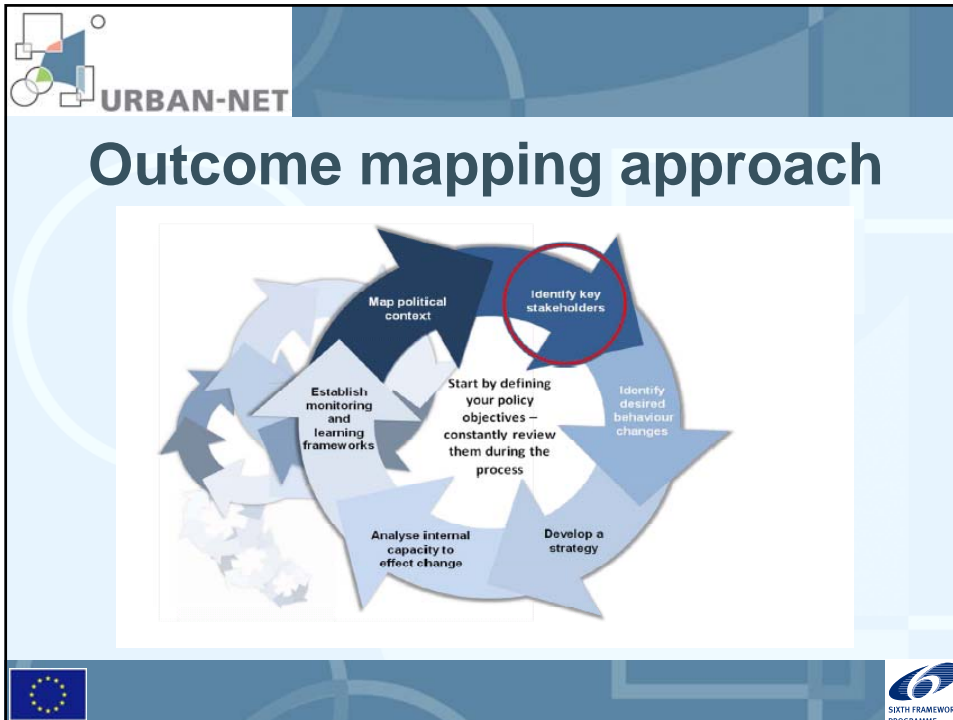
**Social platform on "Cities and social cohesion"**

**dialogue**  
**cooperation**  
**learning**

SOCIAL POLIS - Vienna Conference  
Vienna, May 11-12, 2009  
[www.socialpolis.eu](http://www.socialpolis.eu)  
Institute for the environment and regional development  
WU - Vienna University of Economics and Business  
Schnbrunnengasse 49/50/51a - 1040 Vienna  
Austria T. +43 1 590 1900










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## Works well for...



- Unstructured, wicked problems
- New, undefined topics
- Long term issues
- Multilevel governance
- Multidisciplinary research
- Integrative strategies
- Experimental knowledge and policy




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## Limitations

- Long, complicated process
- Often open ended
- Process focused outcome, not what how to do
- Need to change established patterns of behaviour
- Little internal support and recognition
- Results are subjective
- Loss of independent positions, especially researchers
- Results are very context specific








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## Conclusion

- Knowledge is filtered and deconstructed data
- Knowledge utilization is most effective in a context of participation
- Two modes: connection and interaction
- Both are useful and serve different purposes
- Key issue: general principles vs. locally developed knowledge



**URBAN-NET**

## Points for discussion



Knowledge Arenas for  
Integrated Urban Development  
- Why and How?

Presentation by Henrik Nolmark  
at the Workshop "Urban  
Knowledge & research in the  
European Urban Agenda"  
17th March 2011

1. The "Why?" Part:

- Integrated Urban Development as an Issue for  
Policy, Practice and Research

## Cities and Urban Development are...

- ...People
- + Physical elements
- + Technical Systems
- + Businesses
- + Cultures, values and lifestyles
- + Politics and Governance
- + Management
- +...

MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## Cities and Urban Development:

A **diversity** which has to be treated as "a whole"

– Integrated Urban Development

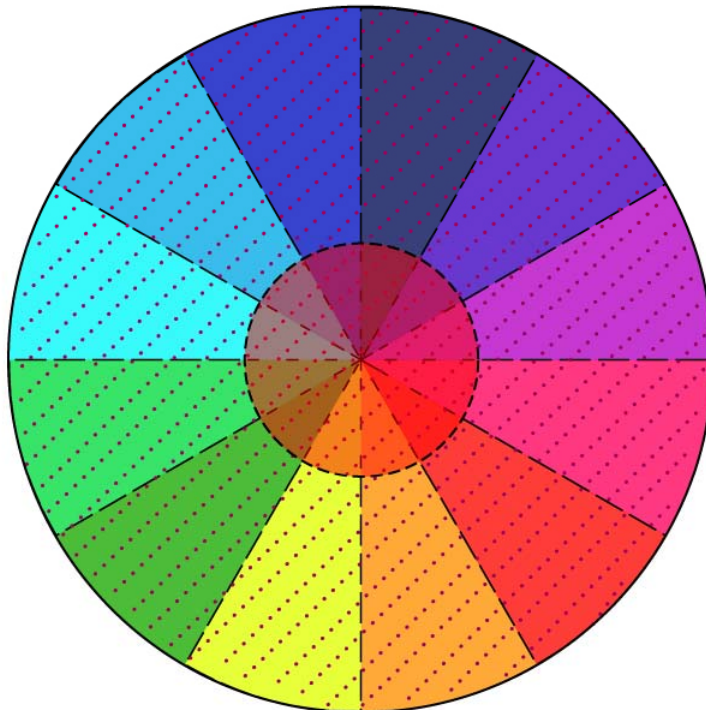
MISTRA URBAN FUTURES



## Integrated Urban Development

- Complex challenges
- A wide range of interlinked issues
- A Diversity of Actors

MISTRA URBAN FUTURES



## Important implications for urban research and knowledge

- No laboratory or field experiments → “Research in Practice”, in real processes with real actors
- Moving target
- Each location has its unique context

MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

*Points of Reference:*

## Pre-policy Activities for Urban Research

- Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment - WG on Research and Training Needs (DG Environment, 2004)
- Urban Science Forward Look (ESF, 2005)
- Urban-Net Strategic Research Framework (2009)
- COST Action C20 Urban Knowledge Arena (Final Report 2009)
- Survey of Research on Cities and Sustainable Urban Development (Swedish Delegation for Sustainable Cities, 2009)

MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## Coherence concerning Approaches and Modes of Operation for Urban Research

Problem-oriented and Action-oriented

Inter- and multidisciplinary

Trans-disciplinary

MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## COST C20: An *Urban Knowledge Arena* can be described as

- A temporary multi-stakeholder collaborative **partnership** of varied backgrounds, professions, expertise and skills;
  - A trans-disciplinary **approach** for combining research, knowledge and capacity building based in a specific urban situation
- It should deliver **specific knowledge** which can have an impact on the local urban situation, but also **generic knowledge** contributing to the international state-of-the-art

MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## 1. The "How?" Part:

- Implementing the concepts of Knowledge Arenas, Interaction Platforms and Transdisciplinary modes of operation

MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

An International Centre for  
Sustainable Urban  
Development with Local  
Interaction Platforms

## Business Idea: Urban Intelligence

= Knowledge + Innovation + Capacity  
for Sustainable Urban Development

- To make a difference
- Excellent, relevant and effective knowledge
- Cross-border modes of operation

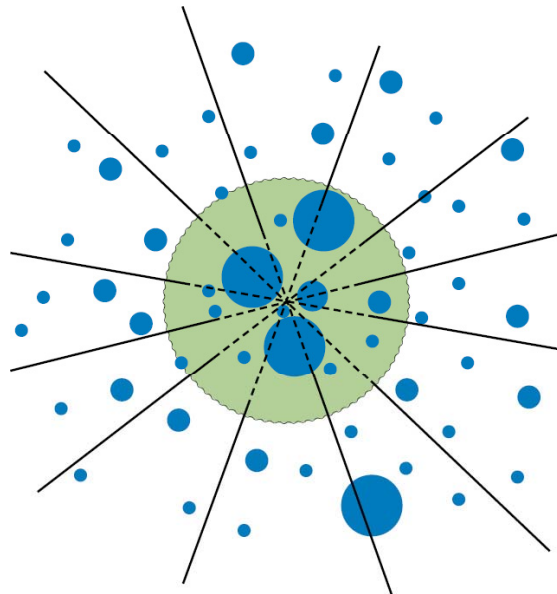
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## Cornerstones

- Integrated Urban Development
- Transdisciplinary Modes of Operation
- Local – Global Dual Focus
- Partnerships for Cooperation

MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## MISTRA URBAN FUTURES



Knowledge  
Clusters in  
Integrated  
Urban  
Development

[www.mistraurbanfutures.se](http://www.mistraurbanfutures.se)

## Partnerships for Collaboration: The Gothenburg Consortium

CHALMERS



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

IVL Svenska  
Miljöinstitutet

REGION  
VÄSTRA GÖTALAND



Göteborgs  
Stad



LÄNSSTYRELSEN  
VÄSTRA GÖTALANDS LÄN  
County Administrative Board

## Partnerships for Collaboration: Interaction Platforms



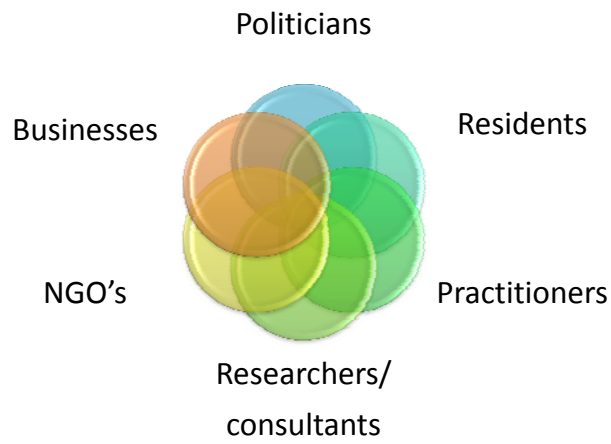
MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## Partnerships for Collaboration: Investors

**MISTRA**  
STIFTELSEN FÖR MILJÖSTRATEGISK FORSKNING

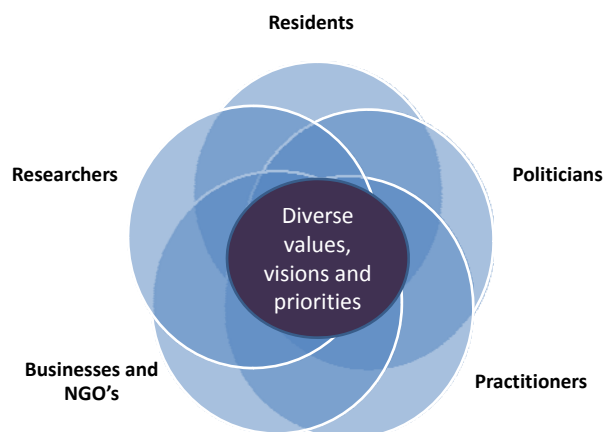


## Urban actors



MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

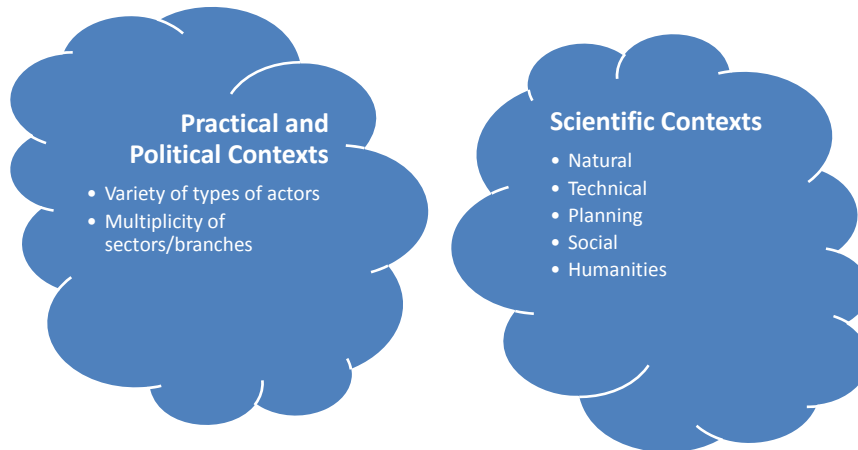
What do we want? Who wants what? Can we reconcile our differences?



MISTRA URBAN FUTURES



## Different types of knowledge, expertise and know-how



 MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

[www.mistraurbanfutures.se](http://www.mistraurbanfutures.se)

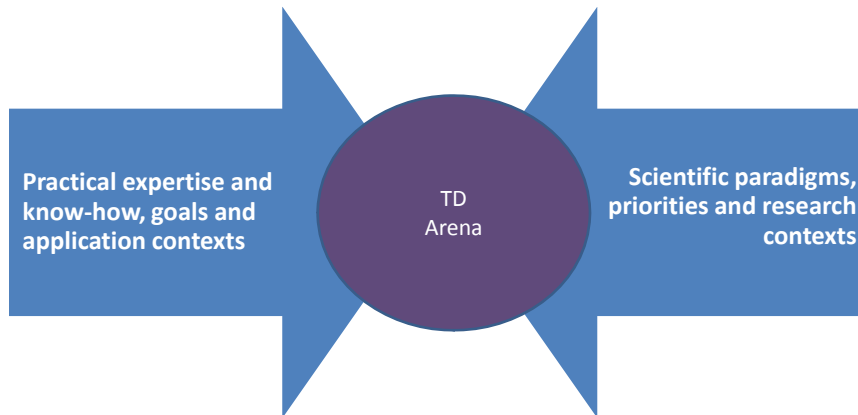
## Prod – User Philosophy

- We are all *bearers* of knowledge
- We are all *producers* of knowledge
- We are all *users* of knowledge



 MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## Setting-up a Transdisciplinary Arena



 MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## Pilot projects in Gothenburg

1. Multi-level governance
2. Adaptation for climate change: Attack, defend, retreat
3. The learning city: Cultures of participation and empowerment
4. Business Driven Sustainable Urban Development
5. Urban games: Tools for mutual learning

 MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## Initial requirements of the pilot projects in Gothenburg

- The pilots are run by joint leadership.
- The leaders were asked to:
  - Gather a diverse group of effected practitioners and researchers around an identified problem area.
  - Design a collaborative process which integrates different perspectives and expertise.
- Results focus on usability and effectiveness for both research and practice.
- All participants are compensated for their time.



MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## Deliverables from Pilot Projects

1. Policy/practice output – for example, meetings, workshops, brochure, guidelines, reports
2. Material for a scientific paper
3. Learning on theTD approach and processes



MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## Characteristics of the TD arena

- Open
- Creative
- Autonomous
- Unpredictable
- Dynamic
- Reflexive
- Shared

... a complex adaptive process



MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## Critical TD features

- Broad **inclusion** (of involved and effected stakeholders)
- In-depth **collaboration** (throughout the process)
- Thorough **integration** (of relevant values, understandings, priorities, worldviews, knowledge, expertise, methods, etc)
- High degree of **usability and effectiveness** (with a focus on practical/real life and scientific contributions to SUD)



MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## Inclusion through joint leadership and mixed working groups

Leaders (1P + 1R) = 2

Working group(P + R) = 6-8

Advisory group (P +R) (10-25)



MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

## Some initial learning on the implementation of a radical TD Approach

- The open, autonomous design of the process has been inspiring
- The pilot project 'kick-off' meetings were instrumental for consolidating the working groups and formulating the project goals and design.
- New challenges with data analysis and results.
- Unpredictable and innovative projects need dynamic and adaptive processes.



MISTRA URBAN FUTURES

End of Presentation  
Thank You!

