



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



## URBAN-NET

### Deliverable 4.5

# Methodologies to strengthen the links between urban research and practice across Europe

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## INTRODUCTION

URBAN-NET is the gathering of urban research programs owners and facilitators in Europe. Its mission is to develop at the European level practices created in that field by the member states, and to find innovative practices to obtain better results within the European framework.

The specificity of urban research, in comparison with many other research fields, is its constant interaction with professional practice: enquiries on how things are going on in urban projects, how urban services are organised, how participative schemes are managed, how dwellers needs are satisfied, how environmental decisions are applied, all subjects of urban research are common concerns between researchers and managers of the cities and territories.

When professional and literature thought appeared on those subjects in modern times the proposals aimed directly to urban reform or to model building.

Until now the demand from media and politicians to raise good examples of what should be done is very strong. Collection of best practices are gathered, and repeated, to give lessons to those who have not been able to be in the first group of sustainable cities or stakeholders.

When scientific urban research began in several member states in the sixties it was a shift from the project to build new towns to solve urban problem. The existing stock was the most important one, and nobody knew to address it and to renew it for all citizens. It is to-day recognized that cities are going to be changed at their margins by new buildings, and in their whole by new infrastructures which have to be imagined from the good examples or practices, but are obliged to take care of very diverse other dimensions. The decline of old industry gave very big opportunities in that perspective, opened to huge renovation programs, but submitted to social, economic and environmental conditions which limited strongly the possibilities. Urban amenities became a both policy and politics object, a challenge for all urban stakeholders, who are very diverse in their different means, economical, political, social and environmental.

In such an institutional context the role of research cannot be to produce scientific results to be applied anywhere, in any local conditions. The urban decision locally is a mix of several dimensions, which needs an integrated approach. Science is one of the input, an important one, giving general, global observations on the subject, a reference framework, but no more. Generally on the same urban problem several disciplines are necessary to be crossed, and to explore the different dimensions of the situation. It is important for researchers to be part of a discipline milieu, to benefit from the researches of colleagues and from their peers and to submit their own work to peers. Then the integration of diverse knowledge on a specific urban problem will not be done in the transfer to action by any of the discipline taking the lead on the other, but by the head of the urban project or the urban planning team, that is generally a highly skilled and experienced professional, but also in the democratic context of Europe the mayor and his officers, or the leader of the major political party. As some FP7 research programs have shown, urban projects, urban renovation, urban planning need strong city leadership, made of political and economic networks. Academic participation is asked for as input and reporting, but not as the first lead.

In the urban field the choice for an academic career on an experimental marginal practice is generally linked with the criticism of dominating practices. The sustainability field does not

escape from this general remark: it appeared through researches and social movements criticizing heavily the way cities were expanding through high rise building, urban sprawl, and different polluting practices. To push academics and NGOs to meet urban planners was a political choice made in the different Ministries in charge of urban development, and social affairs to capture the essence of this criticism and incorporate it in the thinking of new projects. This was the research policy of the seventies, and is still going on in the challenged parts of cities, nearly in the whole of them. But on the research side a new more fundamental way of positioning research is coming up. Sustainability is standing in the middle, more fundamental on the environmental side, more practical on the social side, with an economic lack of thought on both sides. Scientific work on environmental subjects has been developed in a general manner, with no urban concern, but has been incorporated in city-policies by local political leaders.

Since the seventies several European countries have created specific agencies for local planning and local renovation in which are mixed professionals of different disciplines and is searched an integrated approach of urban action. Generally these local agencies know very well their territories, try to apply national norms to local situations, but do not seem to be aware of the move in scientific approaches at the national, European, and global level. The feeling in Ministries then is that most localities are late to apply new policies.

This difficulty is worked in two directions:

- law with some compulsory sustainability measures or lessening taxes for the ones who apply the norms themselves,
- European or worldwide declarations giving moral guidelines to everybody. The Leipzig Charter, signed in 2007, is the last of these declarations, with little means to follow the application, but a stressed urgency to apply it.

The difficulties met in urban planning and urban renovation showed that the top down approach of compulsory measures or tax incentives is not sufficient to produce more sustainability. The idea was then to link research to practice more at national, and now European level, to make professionals able to incorporate research results and concerns in their practice on a voluntary base: from the contacts in many different institutional frameworks, from the dissemination of good practices, from the reorganisation of the training institutions, from the publicity of sustainability vocabulary, appears a general public concern, a new public urban culture, sustainable and pragmatic at the same time.

This culture is the result of interactions between urban actors, either government, businesses, professional organisations, artists propositions, activist interventions at the different levels local, national, and European. Evaluation of implementation of norms and models at local level is used at the European level for an observation of innovation and for recommendations about national rules. Change is conducted more than ever with a transversal elaboration of major ideas, and its transcription in specific contexts. A vivid public debate around ideas, challenges and alternative solutions, is the precondition of collective changes.

## URBAN-NET's EXPERIENCE

During the Urban-Net project we could experience that this new public urban culture had been accomplished in Western Europe at national level in a policy for research which appeared in the 70s, and encouraged researchers to think of social and technical innovation. Eastern countries seemed rather under construction in that field.

Huge private firms of urban services, consulting, and all urban enterprises are participating in such a public culture, as we could observe in the Austrian conference Real Corp 2010, or in the German Program Megacities, or in the Handbook for Urban sustainability edited by the Netherlands Agency, or in the French "Club Ville et aménagement". This can be seen as an outsourcing of the public sector and a privatisation, and is when no measures are taken to define general interest together, to elaborate politically with citizens the bids asking to cover new needs. Still any urban service has to face the public dimension of its action, that is the gathering of users it can create, and the interaction and dialogue with those users to follow and anticipate their needs. The heterogeneity and the inequalities in the city is a challenge that must face any urban service or urban enterprise, and that former public services solved by unique rules, which cannot deal with a diverse society, welcoming migrants and internal differentiation.

Our mission as URBAN-NET was to expand the urban sustainability culture at a European Level. The URBAN-NET approved proposal gave some means for that, a path to-follow, common in ERA-net programs.

- **A searchable base of research programs** gives anybody the opportunity to read the contents of the urban research programs going on during URBAN-NET time or closed just before. This information is very interesting for researchers or policymakers wanting to know the themes of the programs, the names of the researchers and of their institutions. It is useful for our own research program managers, for themselves and to answer questions sometimes. But it is not information used by professionals directly. The paradox is that a European searchable data base in several languages in EUKN is more worth to find national information you have not, that to find information from other countries where you don't share the language and cannot put the good keyword on the site. What we learnt also in this programme is that it is not just a matter of translation; reality, institutional measures are not organised the same way; the equivalence is in the whole, not in each specific term. The use of the research program data base or of the EUKN data base would need an European urban research national contact point, able to organise the flows of information, and not overlooked by other responsibilities. It is one of the capabilities searched for in the European Urban Research Arena.
- **The European urban research agenda:** the preparation of the framework directly confronted professionals to the themes emerged from the research programs base, and asked them to create priorities in the list of research themes. The 15 listed themes from the programs were reshuffled in 4 priority fields in relation with which were issued the two calls from Urban-net. The Berlin Seminar is a strong reference in the story of URBAN-NET. It was the moment where professionals and researchers were mixed in a common public space, a common culture production. It was very innovative. In Berlin seminar researchers and professionals played different roles coming in a third time to a common elaboration of research priorities. In that seminar we touched the possibility to create an urban sustainability milieu aiming at studying and solving

problems. At that time there was not any political or administrative dimension in this meeting to propose the transformation of this try in a permanent platform. URBAN-NET prolongation in URBAN-NEXUS can be seen as a signal from the Commission DG Research, Environment sub-directorate, in this direction.

- **Organizing joint stakeholders activities:** this is the most difficult part of the job. Of course it is quite easy to copy existing tables of joint activities, given in the Era-net documentation, and to tick the activities you had and to say we had nearly all of them. But the first question is to know what means stakeholders in such a programme: in many programs there is a core of researchers, of secretariat, writing the papers, inviting to meetings, and “stakeholders” are people working in kind who attend meetings, and participate to the core group work. In many networks to which we have been invited to participate the stakeholders are invited only to behave friendly to what you organise but with no implication, and no differentiation of roles. Then you have two days meeting in which everybody tries to participate to foresight for instance, but it is a game, with not strategic design of what could do each one. Typical of that were the two stakeholders meeting organised in Brussels and in Vienna by Urban-Europe, in which participants felt asked to become a public opinion lobby in their own countries but were not gathered in a European research-practice future body. Typical of this also were some meetings of SocialPolis in which national urban research programs owners were seen as good friends, perhaps experts, but with no action to take further.

In URBAN-NET in the writing of the proposal we were supposed to organise face to face meetings to design stakeholders joint activities, but no means were devoted to those activities. Some lines were saying that each member should gather the stakeholders from his or own country to urge them to participate in URBAN-NET, in the calls for instance, and to other activities in the case of countries not participating to the calls. A few countries accepted a meeting with an URBAN-NET representative in their premises; the one in France was a failure, because the URBAN-NET participation has already been delegated to PUCA-MEDDTL and need no discussion, and the low level of institutionalisation of relations did not authorized something formalised. A few weeks after a general meeting was held in Den Haag on this question of “ joint activities”: between researchers, between programme officers, between professionals, between cities? The peculiarity of URBAN-NET in comparison with other European programs is that it is clearly between all these who are all represented in these stakeholder workshops. URBAN-NET develops clearly the integrated approach between knowledge, professional action policy action. In Den Haag everybody was an individual in front of those questions, and there was an enthusiastic welcome to the proposal of an already know answer: “Communities of practice”. We are going to make communities of practice in specific cities, between cities, on specific problems. People present at the meeting designated themselves as members of such communities of practice at the local level, at the European level, about indicators, and so on. But after the Den Haag meeting nothing happen. Two comments can be given about that:

- In the theory of Etienne Wenger who invented the word “Community of practice” the community of practice is not a mere gathering of individuals exchanging their e-mail address and raising questions to each other from time to time. It is a community with a common virtual object to make in common, and somebody to take care of the rules, and of the work. No “communities of practice” were created in Den Haag; nobody

knew really what he or she was responsible for, what could be the common virtual object of the communities, and more than that, what could be the time allocated by each participant to this common work. The promised example from Netherlands never came; but the idea showed that, as in Malmo, this community of practice is possible at the local level. For a national urban research officer this is not sufficient.

- In the management of knowledge in the big enterprises with several localities for their plant or offices, the community of practice links the people having the same profession in a system with lot of different professions, and a lack of possibilities to chat with similar qualifications at the same place. The common virtual object is both sharing and showing one's excellence. It has something to do with urban best practices collection: but it has nothing to do with what the cooperation between research and practice is asked for in the urban realm: find ways to spread sustainability values in places which don't benefit from good starting conditions to build it. Excellent urban thinking is an input for that but intermediary steps are necessary between it and the local situations in which to implement it. This intermediary stage is the one urban research programs and journals work to produce.
- **the two transnational calls**  
The main stakeholders of the calls were the researchers community who find there new funding, but also a debate about different structuring of reality in languages. The other ones are the research program owners involved in the calls, who had the opportunity to develop new contents of research, in a transnational setting. The national funding of the national team in each project creates a European community of research for the researchers, but not for the funders. If the results of those transnational programs were of a quality much higher than national ones, a move could be produced and other stakeholders, professional or politician could be asked to develop the scheme. The setting of the program Urban Europe shaped with only national funding gave little space for such an idea. One of the difficulty met for dissemination of URBAN-NET calls results to professionals is the lack of reporting after the grant decision given on the first application. URBAN-NET anthology is an anthology of applications and not of research results: it does not show the difficulties met in field, which is the main problem of practitioners and the demand of the few who were given this anthology.

But with all its difficulties URBAN-NET experience was a good preparation to next development to see in URBAN-NEXUS.

In this transition period we thought that it would be interesting to look at those questions through a bottom up approach, asking each of the URBAN-NET countries to answer a questionnaire about their activities to link research and practice.

In this description there are some peculiarities in specific countries, which could be developed in a European-wide activity, or a concern from URBAN-NET in the existing networks or work relations at the European level. The second part of this report is devoted to these different practices in which one or another country could become the focal point at the European level, because in the URBAN-NET framework it is already the best partner.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN LINKS BETWEEN RESEARCH AND PRACTICE AT EUROPEAN LEVEL**

## **1. Newsletter in English**

All Urban-net organisations have a newsletter, generally in national language, to warn their stakeholders about national and European calls, about changes in national and international management of researchers. But the main relation referred to in the delivering of information is that between funders and researchers. The idea that workshops and conferences could be open to interested stakeholders and that their professional knowledge could be worth in the debate is not yet shared between all organisations: these over stakeholders seem unlimited, and the list would be difficult to maintain.

The opening of scientific meetings by a public information and a welcome of interested professionals, and may be citizens from NGO and local organisations would be worth to try. At the local level in national language as it is to day, but also at the European level with the many professional and civic organisations concerned by urban sustainability.

Then the newsletter, which can be the changing homepage of the web site is an important tool to create a European urban sustainability community, sharing some common practices and aiming at building a common European urban culture.

So the newsletter from Urban-nexus, coming after that from Urban-net, will carry on warning on European worth attending events, on best practices and on research results and opportunities of funding, and will maintain the network.

## **2. Website:**

Urban-net has created a website which is the memory of its actions. This web-site is maintained by Nicis, in relation with the EUKN web site.

Those resources are well used in some countries, not well known in others. The national focal point is not sufficiently well known. The ability of stakeholders to raise questions to the site needs mediation for language reasons, but also because of the differences in policies in European countries. Specific means to use this site, and other research or professional sites, and take advantage of the growing European information resource would be a great path towards a European urban practice community. This is one of the main question for the European urban research arena under discussion: how to create a clearly identified mediation between European work from different networks, and stakeholders members of other networks, or working at the national level.

## **3. Urban sustainability research forum**

The forum practice which has become easy with the blogs could be interesting to create a European debate, and new opportunities of relations between researchers and practitioners. This blog would show themes coming up and themes not so debated. This blog would further the debate organised by the network Urban Europe, beside the URBAN-NET, EUKN and Nicis sites.

## **4. Co-elaboration of policies between cities and research**

Several research organisations gathered in Urban-net has developed specific networking with cities, and may be involved in European cities network. Those relations exist at European level about the main orientations of urban sustainability policies, the definition of indicators or of common references. It exists also at the local level, with strong links developed between cities and universities. It may exist also in a transversal manner with national or perhaps



European manner in programs comparing urban strategic planning of cities, and studying the new values chosen, and the way urban management is changing. This city-research relation, its depository in specific web sites, the common work between urban researchers and local practitioners may be seen as a specific kind of community of practice around the local challenge rather than the professional one. Some examples of such communities can be found in the descriptions of URBAN-NET organisations practices. Sweden and Netherlands research program fund those experiences.

#### **5. Participation of stakeholders in the managing of research programs**

Several organisations have boards deciding about the research programs, or even the funding of individual research projects, in which participate leaders of the professional milieu. Quite often in an individual research a professional will be associated to the follow up, from the design of the research and in the key moments all along. This relation is not always easy as research has very often a critical dimension. But in urban sustainability, were most often the feasibility of results is a key concern, this cooperation should be enhanced by institutional means. The good will is generally a will to influence but the remuneration is then to take knowledge from the researcher and not to exchange knowledge and competencies. The place of professional knowledge in scientific research must be organised.

#### **6. Participation of researchers to urban planning**

The sustainable issue is not yet really integrated in urban planning. One can now measure environmental issues by rough instruments. But the economic evaluation, the comparison between costs and wealth created, jobs open is an objective well shared, but without a sure methodology. The social mix which should be a pillar of urban sustainability is generally broken very quickly after the implementation of programs, as green is an economic positive value. Urban planning is then a quite difficult exercise in the will to integrate the three dimensions. Researchers are often involved in urban planning discussion, more in commission studies than in the general debate. The professional and research debate at the European level is a necessary framework to strengthen participation at a local level. It must be organised in an efficient manner to create.

#### **7. Scientific-professional public dialogue in research conferences**

The relation between researchers and stakeholders is generally thought as an unequal one: either stakeholders are supposed to learn researchers results and to apply them, in a linear relation, which is not the real one even in physical sciences, or researchers are called by commissioned research to work only on the themes decided by stakeholders, which can be not so much research, but rather repetition of practical obsessions.

Some experience have been made of the very interesting results for training on both side from a relation built as equal, with knowledge exchange and common elaboration. This is rather time and money consuming, but the learning on both sides is very fruitful. Urban-net Berlin seminar was something of that kind, and was a turning point of the network.

#### **8. Popular science and videos**

Some Urban-net organisations, Formas (Sweden) and others, make an important point about popularising research results and approaches in medias, on TV for instance. In other countries this type of dissemination is limited to natural and physical sciences. The means of such a dissemination of scientific findings needs training about establishing relations with medias, mobilizing funds, evaluating research worth to popularize, dissemination of media products.

### **9. Action research with artists and NGOs**

The urban sustainability challenge has been thought about by non scientific researchers coming from artistic communities, or from dwellers and NGOS, wanting to experience local solutions and to give examples to researchers and policymakers, to urge them towards valuable solutions of all. This can be seen either in “big” architectural work, in circumstances which cannot be reproduced. But it is also developed by groups with little money, in a pragmatic research on urban sustainability, like Transition towns in UK for instance. Linking those practical researches with more scientific ones seems necessary to evaluate the consistency of those projects and their consistency in the building of the sustainability culture.

### **10. The European urban research arena**

The link between the European programs looking after urban sustainability and the intermediation between the European and the national levels is the task for the next years to give efficiency to all the efforts developed every were.

It will benefit of the work made by different European and national programs on indicators and data. GMES and new computers performance, which will be a part of the project Urban-nexus.

Seated beside the Urban development group of the European union, this arena, funded by member states, will assist the different programs set by the Europe commissions DGs to strengthen urban sustainability. The members of this European urban research arena will be representatives of the European research, practitioners, and cities networks, and representatives of the urban research bodies in the member states.

## NATIONAL METHODOLOGIES TO STRENGTHEN LINKS BETWEEN URBAN RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Organisation: UBA

Country/Region: Austria

<b>Research dissemination</b>	
Newsletter:	<p>A newsletter by the Environment Agency Austria (EAA) informs researchers and stakeholders about activities on the national and European level, research projects, policy developments and events in the field of Climate Change and Adaptation (in German), the newsletter can be subscribed at <a href="http://www.klimawandelanpassung.at/newsletter-registrierung/">http://www.klimawandelanpassung.at/newsletter-registrierung/</a> and started its first issue in February 2011</p> <p>The EAA is a partner in the ERA-Net CIRCLE-2 and spreads a regular newsletter at <a href="http://www.circle-era.eu">www.circle-era.eu</a></p>
Web site :	<p>Information is provided at the proVISION webpage at <a href="http://www.provision-research.at">www.provision-research.at</a> and at several webpages of other national players like the JPI Urban Europe - <a href="http://www.era.gv.at/space/11442/directory/13047.html">http://www.era.gv.at/space/11442/directory/13047.html</a></p>
Videos or film:	The EAA , to date, has not produced any videos or films
Public presentation of researches and discussion:	<p>Presentation of research findings is usually by research partners, sometimes facilitated by EAA or BMWF via the programme provision</p> <p>The recent CIRCLOE-2 MOUNTain Meeting gave researchers the possibility to present their project to a wider audience, research funders, researchers and decision developers – <a href="http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/235.html">http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/235.html</a></p>
Publicity in general media:	Rarely, only facilitated by journalists or researchers closely related to media or if the project topic and its outcomes are of relevance to current developments
Other:	
<b>Training/knowledge exchange</b>	
Practitioners/policy-makers contribute to academic curricula/studies	Fairly rare to exchange in this direction
Research in engineering and architects schools	Only if they are subcontracted by the project partners or participate in a project
Specialised sessions, seminars with stakeholders including community groups	On the regional and/or local level, if new developments are proposed or housing areas are being restructures, this is usually done in Vienna by <a href="http://www.gebietsbetreuung.wien.at/">http://www.gebietsbetreuung.wien.at/</a>
<b>Researcher and practitioner collaboration</b>	
Communities of practice established by internet, meetings etc:	
Development of tools, models, decision support systems etc.:	<i>(This field is developed for social housing and housing by the City of Vienna and the National association of cities. Note from the WPlleader)</i>
Strategic, master community planning, Urban management innovation	<i>(idem)</i>

<b>Research and enterprise clustering</b>	<i>(idem)</i>
Pilot projects, tests with local authorities, communities etc:	<i>(This field is developed by the Austrian Institute for Technology, mostly in transport and energy)</i>
Elaboration of general concepts driving urban change:	<i>(idem)</i>
International networking:	<i>AIT is one of the leading organisation in the project of joint programming Urban Europe</i>

Organisation: PUCA

Country/Region: France

<b>Research dissemination</b>	
Newsletter:	the newsletter <b>Premier Plan</b> , six times a year gives news about research programs and research workshops, organised by PUCA or other bodies. Each issue presents a programme in more detail.
Scientific journal :	Les <b>Annales de la Recherche Urbaine</b> publishes thrice a year papers issued from the best researches funded or not by PUCA. It publishes sometime researches from other countries.
Web site :	<a href="http://www.urbanisme.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/PUCA">www.urbanisme.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/PUCA</a> The research laboratories have also their web sites
Videos or film	a few researchers have produced videos, but the dissemination of these films is not easy
Public presentation of researches and discussion:	it is one of the preferred activities from PUCA: researchers around a same theme present their results to their peers, it is open to concerned professionals and advertised on the website.
Publicity in general media:	these are negotiated by researchers themselves; only famous researchers are published
Other:	
<b>Training/knowledge exchange</b>	
Practitioners/policy-makers contribute to or inform academic curricula/studies	most researchers are university teachers and use research results in their teaching practice.
Research in engineering and architects schools	research gives those schools a good opportunity for innovation. The most well known are ENPC, ENTPE, ENSMP
Specialised sessions, seminars with stakeholders including community groups	policymakers invite researchers to introduce training sessions organised on local and national fora
Knowledge exchange sessions, cross-fertilization:	several organisations linked with cities or with professions organise cross fertilisation sessions with researchers
Other	
<b>Researcher and practitioner collaboration</b>	
Communities of practice established by internet, meetings etc:	in French regions communities of practice have been established between local authorities, civil servants and professionals dealing with urban development matters. These regional communities of practice are called <b>PREDAT</b>
Development of tools, models, decision support systems etc.:	in several large agglomerations, especially Lyons, researchers have been asked to elaborate tools to deal with the new scale of the city

Strategic, master, community planning etc:	production of a common urban culture: a program of evaluation about these new strategic planning practices has been set up and associates local authorities, professionals and researchers. It is called <b>POPSU</b> . This program is co-funded by cities and State.
Urban management innovation:	research has been called for several times when a difficulty exceeded the local responsible thinking. Researchers help to improve urban transport management, improve relations in deprived neighbourhoods etc...Researchers managed participative schemes in those neighbourhoods or environments. Local research-actions were set up with the participation of PUCA to link researchers and local authorities.
<b>Research and enterprise clustering</b>	
Elaboration of tools for planning and management	capabilities in electronics are linked with management competencies to produce software for urban management. The French government has decided to gather all research institutions for that purpose in <b>Marne La Vallée</b> : and to create a cluster called <b>Advancity</b>
Pilot projects, tests with local authorities, communities etc:	the researches developed in this framework are tested with Paris Region local authorities when they wish to benefit from research
Elaboration of general concepts driving urban change:	The new scale of this research made for enterprises needs abstract concept to communicate to builders, and users. <b>Le Club ville et aménagement</b> co-funded by builders and by the State is a place for elaboration of these new concepts.
International networking:	the production of software and the selling of electronic products need a new vision of urban research, coming out of its rather local orientation. Exportation is now an important concern.
Other:	

**Organisation: Nicis Institute**

**Country/Region: The Netherlands**

<b>Research dissemination</b>	
Newsletter:	Nicis Institute publishes monthly newsletters in Dutch on each of the six main themes (total 66 newsletters in Dutch). In addition, Nicis produces the bi-weekly English language newsletter on the 7 EUKN themes and 2 special issues (total of 22 newsletters in English).
Scientific journal :	Nicis Institute publishes a special magazine for urban researchers and practitioners called City Journal (6,000 subscribers)
Web site :	Nicis Institute hosts 30 websites, including the EUKN portal website and the 15 National Focal Point websites. The main website for Nciis Institute is: <a href="http://www.nicis.nl">www.nicis.nl</a>

Videos or film:	Nicis Institute has produced several films on urban topics, most recently on urban poverty.
Public presentation of researches and discussion:	The institute organises approximately 25 master classes per year, several conferences, and topical seminars
Publicity in general media:	Exposure in national newspapers depending on the news produced by the institute.
Other:	Book publications of research projects funded by the Nicis urban research programme (> 10 per year).
<b>Training/knowledge exchange</b>	
Practitioners/policy-makers contribute to academic curricula/studies	Strong linkages with researchers, policy makers and decision makers, who also form the board of the institute. These professionals groups are actively involved in the meetings organised by the institute.
Research in engineering and architects schools	The research focus is on socio-economical aspects of urban policy and practice. No hard technical research.
Specialised sessions, seminars with stakeholders including community groups	Yes, more than 50 meetings per year, including knowledge and expert meetings, seminars for deputy mayors, city tours, conferences, study trips, masterclasses...
Knowledge exchange sessions, cross-fertilization:	The largest of the four main units within Nicis Institute (Nicis Knowledge Centre) deals with knowledge dissemination publications (website, in print), and knowledge management. Publication of over 2,000 knowledge documents per year, 24-hour Q&A services (250 request per year),  A separate unit called Nicis Academy is concerned with training, capacity building, in company training, an accredited master programme (Master in Strategic Urban Studies together with the Dutch School for Public Administration).
Other	
<b>Researcher and practitioner collaboration</b>	
Communities of practice established by internet, meetings etc:	Communities of Practice: called knowledge platforms and Nicis Advisory Bodies
Development of tools, models, decision support systems etc.:	Yes, depending on the research.
Strategic, master, community planning etc:	
Urban management innovation:	Governance is an important main topic (one of the six main themes within the Institute)
<b>Research and enterprise clustering</b>	
Elaboration of tools for planning management and:	Yes, depending on the research.
Pilot projects, tests with local authorities, communities etc:	No
Elaboration of general concepts driving urban change:	Yes, several research projects are dealing with this issue, in fact within each of the six main themes.
International networking:	The European department of Nicis Institute hosts two large projects dealing with urban research, policy and practice: EUKN ( <a href="http://www.eukn.org">www.eukn.org</a> ), an intergovernmental network of 15 EU member states, and the newly established European Metropolitan

	network institute ( <a href="http://www.emi-network.eu">www.emi-network.eu</a> ). In addition the European department is involved in international networks such as URBACT (acting as the URBACT Dutch National Dissemination Point), URBAN-NET, URBAN-NEXUS, the reference Framework for Sustainable Cities, UDG, JPI Urban Europe. A proposal for an Interreg IVc project on energy efficient cities has just been submitted.
Other:	Nicis Institute Cooperates Closely With Other Urban Institutes In the Netherlands and abroad.

**Organisation: The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR)<sup>1</sup> Country/Region: Germany**

<b>Research dissemination</b>	
Newsletter:	A quarterly newsletter informs about current research projects, publications and events of the BBSR. There is also a newsletter only on publications
Scientific journal :	<p>BBSR is the publisher of a wealth of printed and digital factual magazines, journals, and information brochures, which are mostly available for download from the website. The most important publications are:</p> <p><b>"Informationen zur Raumentwicklung" (Information on Spatial Development)</b> is an established specialist journal on spatial planning and policy. It is published in theme issues that comment on current and medium-term tasks in the fields of spatial planning, urban development, housing and building. It constitutes a central forum of discussion at the interface between science and practice in Germany.</p> <p><b>Raumforschung und Raumordnung (Spatial Research and Spatial Planning)</b> is published as a specialist journal for spatial planning and policy together with the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL), Hannover.</p> <p><b>Schriftenreihe "Forschungen" (Research)</b> - issued by BMVBS – results from the federal reserach programme are publised. The scope of content includes methodologies and concrete projects.</p> <p><b>"Berichte"</b> Spatial planning reports and results from current regional observations appear in this series. Additionally, the BBSR composes reports on urban building developments, on the effects of urban development funding projects and on building land and property market developments.</p>
Web site :	<a href="http://www.bbsr.bund.de">www.bbsr.bund.de</a> The research projects have also their related websites
Videos or film	Some of the projects have produced videos. These are available at the website
Public presentation of researches and	BBSR hosts and commissions a wealth of events for information, learning, consultation and discussion for and with their peers.

<sup>1</sup> BBSR sits within within the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) is a departmental research institution under the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS)



discussion:	Events are usually open to related professionals and advertised on the website and by other means.
Publicity in general media:	This is done on a case-by-case basis related to the topic and expected public interest
Other:	
<b>Training/knowledge exchange</b>	
Practitioners/policy-makers contribute to or inform academic curricula/studies	Many researchers are university teachers and use research results in their teaching practice.
Research in engineering and architects schools	
Specialised sessions, seminars with stakeholders including community groups	Some research projects have included such sessions in their workpackages from the start. Also policymakers invite researchers to introduce training sessions organised on local and national for a
Knowledge exchange sessions, cross-fertilization:	As in other countries a good number of organisations linked with cities or with professions organise cross fertilisation sessions with researchers. A prominent example is the DIFU – the German Institute for Urbanism
Other	
<b>Researcher and practitioner collaboration</b>	
Communities of practice established by internet, meetings etc:	There are similar networks incorporated in projects/programmes
Development of tools, models, decision support systems etc.:	This is one of the main aims of the federal office within their programme of experimental housing, building and urban and regional development.
Strategic, master, community planning etc:	This is by law not the task of the federal level. However with its funded research and practice projects the bmvbs and its bbsr facilitate and finance the generation of good practices, guidelines, recommendations and tools.
Urban management innovation:	Regarding urban transport and mobility there are a number of related activities on can find on the following website (in German only): <a href="http://www.mobilitaet21.de">www.mobilitaet21.de</a> <a href="http://www.forschungsinformationssystem.de">www.forschungsinformationssystem.de</a> (Research information system providing info on research results also for practitioners)
<b>Research and enterprise clustering</b>	
Elaboration of tools for planning and management	See info provided above
Pilot projects, tests with local authorities, communities etc:	This is one of the main focuses of the research programme EXWOST on experimental research.
Elaboration of general concepts driving urban change:	See info provided above
International networking:	BMVBS and BBSR are acting actively via existing projects and institutions such as: ESPON, Urbact, EUKN, Interreg etc
Other:	

**Organisation: EZ/AgentschapNL (formerly known as SenterNovem) Country/Region: The Netherlands**

<b>Research dissemination</b>	
Newsletter:	<a href="https://www.senternovem.nl/eos/nieuwsbrief/index.asp">https://www.senternovem.nl/eos/nieuwsbrief/index.asp</a>
Scientific journal :	-
Web site :	<a href="http://www.senternovem.nl/eos">www.senternovem.nl/eos</a>
Videos or film:	<a href="https://www.senternovem.nl/eos/infotheek/films/index.asp">https://www.senternovem.nl/eos/infotheek/films/index.asp</a>
Public presentation of researches and discussion:	Analysis reports on themes (Status rapporten) <a href="https://www.senternovem.nl/eos/infotheek/statusrapporten/index.asp">https://www.senternovem.nl/eos/infotheek/statusrapporten/index.asp</a>
Publicity in general media:	Sometimes depend on theme.
Other:	community of knowledge, workshops, exchange of knowledge, events
<b>Training/knowledge exchange</b>	
Practitioners/policy-makers contribute to academic curricula/studies	Most Dutch universities have strong relations with practitioners/policimakers. Cities create an urban sustainability laboratory with research schools.
Research in engineering and architects schools	Yes, especially at technical universities
Specialised sessions, seminars with stakeholders including community groups	Seminars yes Communities like research laboratoria involved in plan process urban sustainability. City planning Venlo, Almere, Utrecht
Knowledge exchange sessions, cross-fertilization:	Meetings and (design) workshops with practitioners and scientists financed by SenterNovem/Agentschap NL. Sometimes also organised by SN/ANL (and moderated by its own moderation team), but sometimes also organised by a specialised external organisation agency.
Other	
<b>Researcher and practitioner collaboration</b>	
Communities of practice established by internet, meetings etc:	remarks on twitter is upcoming

Development of tools, models, decision support systems etc.:	TNO, universities (both national and international, e.g. Ecocity), private companies
Strategic, master, community planning etc:	
Urban management innovation:	Internal course on innovation and transition management
<b>Research and enterprise clustering</b>	
Elaboration of tools for planning management and:	Insights on planning management is partly included in the strategic staff unit on knowledge development and moderation
Pilot projects, tests with local authorities, communities etc:	Sometimes (partly) financed by SN/ANL, with budget out of a national subsidy programme/scheme.
Elaboration of general concepts driving urban change:	Partly financing of handbooks (e.g. on Sustainable Urban Planning) that include concepts on this subject.
International networking:	Participation in international projects: FP6, FP7, Civitas, IIE, Interreg, etc. Presentations on conferences, commenting concepts of EU-position papers etc. Next to that: one part of the organisation (EVD) works solely on the improvement of the market chances of Dutch enterprises/knowledge institutions on the international market, with help by financing and information gathering.
Other:	

**Organisation: URBAN-INCERC National Institute for Research and Development in Construction, Urban Planning and Sustainable Spatial Development**  
**Country/Region: Romania**

<b>Research dissemination</b>	
Newsletter:	Monthly issued by the Scientific Journal
Scientific journal :	<i>Urbanism. Arhitectură. Construcții (Urban, Architecture, Constructions)</i> ISSN 2069-0509 (print) / 2069-6469 (on-line)
Web site :	<a href="http://www.incd.ro/">http://www.incd.ro/</a>
Videos or film:	Not available
Public presentation of researches and discussion:	Done at least twice a year. Last event: 27.11 2010, the VIII edition of the National Conference Urban Concept
Publicity in general media:	This is done on a case-by-case basis based on projects requirements
Other:	-
<b>Training/knowledge exchange</b>	
Practitioners/policy-makers contribute to academic curricula/studies	Some researchers are university teachers and use research results in their teaching practice.
Research in engineering and	INCD "URBAN-INCERC", continues the impressive

architects schools	work of the National Institute for Building Research – INCERC, Bucharest, the National Institute for Research and Development in Urban Planning and Spatial Development – URBANPROIECT, Bucharest and the National Resource Centre for Research & Development and Documentation in Construction, Architecture, Urban Planning and Spatial Development
Specialised sessions, seminars with stakeholders including community groups	They are events organised mainly through The Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism
Knowledge exchange sessions, cross-fertilization:	They are provided through research projects that have included such sessions in their work-packages.
Other	-
<b>Researcher and practitioner collaboration</b>	
Communities of practice established by internet, meetings etc:	URBAN-INCERC mainly participates to networks generated by projects
Development of tools, models, decision support systems etc.:	Yes, through national financing for the use of The Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism
Strategic, master, community planning etc:	As a unit subordinated to The Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism URBAN-INCERC is consulted in these kind of activities
Urban management innovation:	Yes through specific projects as those dedicated to Turceni and Ibanesti urban communities.
<b>Research and enterprise clustering</b>	
Elaboration of tools for planning management and:	Especially in spatial planning
Pilot projects, tests with local authorities, communities etc:	Taking advantage of the existence of structural funds projects have been developed with local authorities of: Sibiu, Galati, Olt, Vrancea Counties.
Elaboration of general concepts driving urban change:	URBAN-INCERC is the main actor in Romania for the elaboration of general concepts driving urban change especially in projects for The Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism.
International networking:	URBAN-INCERC is acting actively via projects and institutions such as: ESPON, SEE, URBACT etc
Other:	-

**Organisation: SNIFFER**

**Country/Region: Scotland & NI**

<b>Research dissemination</b>	
Newsletter:	<p>SNIFFER newsletter/e-bulletin is issued periodically (frequency sporadic recently due to staff changes and restructuring) to research providers, research funders and other stakeholders across the UK.</p> <p>SCCIP newsletter is issued monthly on behalf of the Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership to approaching 500 subscribers across Scotland including academia, public bodies and institutions, regulatory agencies, private sector and plus round 500 the Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnet</p>
Scientific journal :	
Web site :	1. The SNIFFER website provides a variety of information, inc:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search facility which returns reports, summaries etc., for active, proposed and completed research projects</li> <li>• News, events and activities</li> <li>• Background on SNIFFER expertise and services</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.sniffer.org.uk/">http://www.sniffer.org.uk/</a></p> <p>2. SNIFFER also provides research information service for flood risk management on behalf of Scottish Government. The RISE website includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a <b>knowledge inventory</b> (a searchable on-line database) of flood risk management research from across the UK and Europe of relevance to Scotland;</li> <li>• A <b>'What's new page'</b> which provides details of relevant research, news and events of interest to the flood risk management community within Scotland.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.rise-frm.org.uk/">http://www.rise-frm.org.uk/</a></p> <p>3. SNIFFER delivers services on behalf of SCCIP (Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership) which brings together stakeholders to collectively address and prepare for the impacts of climate change. A similar service is provided for NICCIP in Northern Ireland. The SCCIP website is a portal for accessing :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research findings and outputs ;</li> <li>• Resources and toolkits ;</li> <li>• Contacts and a user forum ;</li> <li>• Details of upcoming and past events.</li> </ul> <p>(A NICCIP website is proposed, subject to resource provision).</p> <p>4. SNIFFER coordinates the communication function of CAMERAS (a Coordinated Agenda for Marine, Environment and Rural Affairs Science specifically aims to align the science (including research) of Scotland science commissioning organisations funded by the Scottish Government across these topic areas (including the urban environment). Various forums created within this initiative to explore themes of common interest are created and explored with researchers to inform collaborative working. See the website at</p> <p><a href="http://www.Camerasscotland.org">www.Camerasscotland.org</a></p>
Videos or film:	SNIFFER, to date, has not produced any videos or films
Public presentation of researches and discussion:	Presentation of research findings is usually by research partners, sometimes facilitated by SNIFFER e.g. RISE and SCCIP, events
Publicity in general media:	Rarely undertaken on a project-specific basis unless budget allocated or initiative identified at project start-up. Possibly not considered very often because of specialist nature of many projects but is an area that

	could be more usefully explored/exploited. Also potential for greater publicity in specialist literature, magazines and bulletins – both domestic and European.
Other:	
<b>Training/knowledge exchange</b>	
Practitioners/policy-makers contribute to academic curricula/studies	Fairly rare to exchange in this direction although
Research in engineering and architects schools	Innovative approaches using contemporary media (film clips) with local urban engineering school to provide a forum with local planners to engage and discuss planning concepts and ideas.
Specialised sessions, seminars with stakeholders including community groups	SNIFFER facilitates the Annual Flood Risk Seminar SCCIP runs a variety of knowledge exchange activities with stakeholders from public and private sector
Knowledge exchange sessions, cross-fertilization:	SNIFFER hosts and delivers KE and research identification workshops on areas of interest.
Other	
<b>Researcher and practitioner collaboration</b>	
Communities of practice established by internet, meetings etc:	Good Places Better Health under SNIFFER draws environmental health and medical science research findings (especially urban and related to sustainable places) and local practitioners together to “ground truth” and validate against common sense and local practices. This is prior to putting research findings as evidence to policy makers.  Coordination of the SESEN Scottish Environment Social Evidence network, that drew policy and research together to inform the commissioning of new socio-economic research on the environments in Scotland.
Development of tools, models, decision support systems etc.:	
Strategic, master, community planning etc:	
Urban management innovation:	
<b>Research and enterprise clustering</b>	
Elaboration of tools for planning management and:	
Pilot projects, tests with local authorities, communities etc:	See Good places Better health above.
Elaboration of general concepts driving urban change:	
International networking:	
Other:	

**Organisation: Ministry of Housing Country/Region: Spain**

**Research dissemination**

Newsletter: The Ministry of Housing has no Research newsletter.

	<p>There is an on-line newsletter (only in Spanish) on urban sustainability ("<i>Boletín CF+S</i>"), which is included in the "<i>Biblioteca CF+S</i>" (On-line Library on Cities for a more Sustainable Future), which is funded by the Ministry of Housing.</p> <p><a href="http://habitat.aq.upm.es/">http://habitat.aq.upm.es/</a></p>
Scientific journal :	<p><b>"CyTET: Ciudad y Territorio. Estudios Territoriales"</b> is the scientific journal published by the Ministry of Housing. This journal has a long experience in research dissemination (more than 40 years). It is published 4 times a year. The journal is open to all Spanish researchers, after a peer review process carried out by the journal referees. The journal has links with other countries, and is specially known in Latin America. It is included in the following impact index lists and databases: IN-RECS, Latindex, DIALNET, RESH, Ulrichs.</p>
Web site :	<p>The General Directorate of Land and Urban Policies of the Ministry of Housing has its own website:</p> <p><a href="http://siu.vivienda.es/">http://siu.vivienda.es/</a></p> <p>The Ministry of Housing also participates in the European Urban Knowledge Network, EUKN <a href="http://www.eukn.org/Spain/es">http://www.eukn.org/Spain/es</a> , where some research results are uploaded.</p>
Videos or film:	
Public presentation of researches and discussion:	<p>Sometimes, the Ministry organises seminars on a specific issue. This may be the occasion for making public presentations of research funded by the Ministry.</p>
Publicity in general media:	
Other:	
<b>Training/knowledge exchange</b>	
Practitioners/policy-makers contribute to academic curricula/studies	<p>Most researchers are University teachers.</p>
Research in engineering and architects schools	<p>Most researchers are University teachers.</p>
Specialised sessions, seminars with stakeholders including community groups	<p>One interesting experience led by the Ministry of Housing is the exchange of Best Practices. The Ministry is very much involved in the UN-HABITAT Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme, and organises exhibitions and seminars where the Spanish Best Practices awarded or listed at the UN-HABITAT and Dubai Municipality Awards are presented.</p> <p>There is also a website where the experiences are presented, which is funded by the Ministry of Housing: <a href="http://habitat.aq.upm.es/">http://habitat.aq.upm.es/</a>. This website is quite popular in Spain, and Latin America as well.</p>
Knowledge exchange sessions, cross-fertilization:	<p>Seminars organised by local, regional or national authorities use to include academic presentations as key speeches.</p> <p>Knowledge exchange between academic researchers is quite common: Seminars, Summer Seminars,</p>

	<p>Conferences, etc.</p> <p>One big national event on sustainability is CONAMA, National Congress on Environment, where the Ministry of Housing uses to participate. It is organised each two years and involves researchers, public administration, practitioners, private enterprises, etc.</p> <p><a href="http://www.conama10.es/web/index.php">http://www.conama10.es/web/index.php</a></p>
Other	
<b>Researcher and practitioner collaboration</b>	
Communities of practice established by internet, meetings etc:	<p>Although the academic research community is quite active, all the activities are quite independent and there is neither official “community” nor formal networks. The research community is scattered and mainly functions on the basis of personal “contacts”.</p> <p>Some regions or Universities have established websites, but apart from “Research Groups” there are no proper urban “research communities”.</p>
Development of tools, models, decision support systems etc.:	<p>Researchers are often involved in decision support systems.</p>
Strategic, master, community planning etc:	<p>In Spain, “University Institutes of Research” are public bodies that can be set up by Universities, which include the possibility not of only of carrying on traditional research (that is, participating on research calls looking for funding), but which can also contract (under certain circumstances) some professional works (normally master plans, urban planning, etc) with public authorities (normally cities).</p> <p>“University Institutes of Research” have carried out some of the most innovative solutions for local authorities.</p>
Urban management innovation:	
<b>Research and enterprise clustering</b>	
Elaboration of tools for planning management and:	<p>“University Institutes of Research” have carried out some of the most innovative solutions for local authorities.</p>
Pilot projects, tests with local authorities, communities etc:	<p>“University Institutes of Research” have carried out some of the most innovative solutions for local authorities.</p> <p>At national level, two examples, funded by the Ministry of Housing are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The White Paper on Urban Sustainability in Spain.</i> Carried out by Madrid School of Architecture. UPM.</li> <li>- <i>The National Observatory of Urban Vulnerability.</i> Also carried by Madrid School of Architecture. UPM.</li> </ul>
Elaboration of general concepts driving urban change:	<p>“University Institutes of Research” have carried out some of the most innovative solutions for local authorities.</p>
International networking:	<p>For researchers, international networking is more common with Latin American Universities than with European Universities, maybe due to the language.</p> <p>On the other hand, there are interesting European networks of cities exchanging experiences, where there is much more involvement of Spanish cities.</p> <p>Some cities have their own Urban Research Institutes,</p>



	<p>often linked with urban sustainability:          -For example, Malaga has the OMAU (Observatory of Urban Environment) <a href="http://www.omau-malaga.com/inicio.asp">http://www.omau-malaga.com/inicio.asp</a> . One interesting example of their participation in international networks is the CAT-MED network: <a href="http://catmed.eu/">http://catmed.eu/</a>.          -Barcelona has the “Agencia de Ecología Urbana de Barcelona”, which is also involved in some international networks, and has developed interesting tools out for urban sustainability.  <a href="http://www.bcnecologia.net/">http://www.bcnecologia.net/</a></p>
Other:	

**Organisation: Formas**

**Country/Region: Sweden**

<b>Research dissemination</b>	
Newsletter:	YES (in Swedish)
Scientific journal :	Popular science journals. Miljöforskning (Paper and web in Swedish) and Sustainability (Web in English):Both journals also have “e-alerts”.
Web site :	<b>www.formas.se</b>
Videos or film:	YES. Both videoclips see <a href="http://www.formas.se/formas_templates/Page_4618.aspx">http://www.formas.se/formas_templates/Page_4618.aspx</a> and support to sciencebased documentaries often in co-operation with SVT (Swedish Television).
Public presentation of researches and discussion:	To some extent
Publicity in general media:	YES
Other: Exhibitions	E g WUF, Euroscience Open Forum,, Green Week
Popular science books	See <a href="http://www.formas.se/formas_shop/StartPageShop_1841.aspx">http://www.formas.se/formas_shop/StartPageShop_1841.aspx</a>
Multimedia productions	See e g <a href="http://infactplaneten.appspot.com/index.html?lang=eng">http://infactplaneten.appspot.com/index.html?lang=eng</a> and <a href="http://www.symbiocityscenarios.com/">http://www.symbiocityscenarios.com/</a>
Popular science portal	<a href="http://www.forskning.se">www.forskning.se</a>
Science festivals	Participation
<b>Training/knowledge exchange</b>	
Practitioners/policy-makers contribute to academic curricula/studies	In some of our strategic calls it is a must to have practitioners participating in the project. Most project dealing with applied research have reference groups with stakeholders.
Research in engineering and architects schools	YES we do fund R&D in engineering and architects schools
Specialised sessions, seminars with stakeholders including community groups	YES

Knowledge exchange sessions, cross-fertilization:	YES
Other	
<b>Researcher and practitioner collaboration</b>	
Communities of practice established by internet, meetings etc:	To some extent – and in some areas
Development of tools, models, decision support systems etc.:	YES we have funded such projects
Strategic, master, community planning etc:	YES we have funded such projects
Urban management innovation:	YES we have funded such projects
<b>Research and enterprise clustering</b>	
Elaboration of tools for planning management and:	YES we have funded such projects
Pilot projects, tests with local authorities, communities etc:	YES we have funded such projects
Elaboration of general concepts driving urban change:	YES we have funded such projects
International networking:	YES
Other:	