

Editorial

Dear friends,

I am happy to point to the outline of the next EURA conference which you will find on the next pages of this newsletter. This conference on **'URBAN EUROPE – CHALLENGES TO MEET THE URBAN FUTURE'** will take place in Vienna from *20-22 September 2012*. Please be aware that the **Call for Papers** for the different panels is open, and abstracts have to be submitted until *16 January 2012*. Many thanks already now to Jens Dangschat and his team who are organizing this event.

The governing board has already decided on the forthcoming EURA conferences of the next years. In 2013 the EURA conference will take place in Enschede. In 2014 it will be hosted in Paris.

Please have also a closer look at the information (on pages 4) about the last EURA conference on **'CITIES WITHOUT LIMITS'** which took place from 23-25 June 2011 in Copenhagen. Many thanks to our Danish friends for organising this successful event.

Furthermore, I would like to draw your attention to page 5 and 6 of this newsletter where you will find information about the first **EURA Summer School**. This summer school on **'RESCALING GOVERNMENT: REFORMING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT'** took place in Vouliagmeni, Greece, from 18-23 September 2011. It was hosted and financially supported by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS). We are really grateful for this support. The summer school was a big success. However, although the secretariat informed all members that PhD students from member institutes (or who were individual members) were not obliged to pay the fee, only few PhD students from EURA members participated. Please be aware that this offer will also be made for the next EURA Summer School. Plans for such an event have been made. Our board members Nikos Hlepas and

Panagiotis Getimis are trying to find financial support for the next summer school which is envisaged to thematically focus on local strategies and measures against climate change. We will inform you about the next summer school once further details are available

Finally I ask you to have a look at **our new website** (<http://www.eura.org>) where you can find more information about the European Urban Research Association and its previous and current activities.

Hubert Heinelt
Technische Universität Darmstadt
EURA President

Editorial Team

Prof. Dr. Hubert Heinelt
Sonja Löber

The aims of EURA

- To encourage international exchange and co-operation in relation to urban research
- To stimulate and encourage interdisciplinary and cross-border urban research
- To contribute to urban policy debates.

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Conference News and Information

This section provides news and information about international conferences in Europe and elsewhere.

If you have any material you would like to see in the next issue please send it to

aura@pg.tu-darmstadt.de.

EUROPEAN EVENT – VIENNA 2012

URBAN EUROPE – CHALLENGES TO MEET THE URBAN FUTURE

20-22 September 2012,
Vienna/Austria

EUROPEAN EVENT



Cities are both drivers of economic, technological and organisational development and the places of remarkable social change.

The conference “Urban Europe – Challenges to Meet the Urban Future” reflects the actual urban situations and the main challenges and outlines outcomes and solutions.

For many years the EU played down the role of cities in Europe in terms of their economic, cultural and social relevance. With the program Europe 2020, the EU for the first time officially devoted its attention to cities. The Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) “Urban Europe” has a clear focus on urban areas as key elements for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. However, this program has been technologically dominated so far and needs a more interdisciplinary approach from the broad field of social science.

The aim of the conference is to collect critical and practical relevant theses and results to stimulate debates on the European urban future. In particular it addresses the governance of cities that have to deal with contradictory challenges between economic competitiveness and social cohesion, technological aspects of energy management (‘smart cities’) and settlement growth, shrinking cities, increasing segregation and environment protection. There is a need for new forms of governance to



integrate the increasingly different interests of heterogeneous urban societies and to come up with growth coalitions that combine competitiveness and responsibilities for balanced developments.

Scholars from diverse disciplines as well as practitioners are welcome to contribute to the following themes organized in one track each:

1. *Aim, Process and Deficits of the Joint Programming Initiative "Urban Europe"*

The Joint Programming Initiative "Urban Europe" (JPI Urban Europe) is one of ten strategic research fields to meet the challenges for the Europe 2020 programme goals. It is the first time that the European Union explicitly point out the role of European cities to be drivers of a sustainable development in Europe. Besides underlining the need for proper and interdisciplinary integrated research across economy, society, ecology and mobility, the programme intends to intensify forward-thinking, long-term oriented research and innovation initiatives to shape urban development in Europe. JPI Urban Europe will define the topics of respective parts in the 8th Research Framework Programme of the EU and beyond. Using the capacity of EUROPEAN as the most important professional network in urban research and consultancy in Europe, the aim of the track is to critically reflect the development of the pilot phase, which is starting in July 2011 and will end in January 2014.

2. *Patterns and Driving Forces of Long-Term Urban Dynamics*

Cities have always been the spearheads of modernisation processes in the fields of technological, economic, social and environmental change. Since sustainability is accepted as a general goal in politics and planning, these relations are seen as strongly interdependent and as an integral part of balanced development. Demographic change, climate change and institutional change (redistributing the tasks between the public sector, the market and the civic society) are only some of the most prominent megatrends that influence long-term urban dynamics. The recent challenges of city competition on a European and global scale have intensified these challenges and the need to reflect on its interrelations. There

seems to be an increasing diversity among cities which enhances uncertainty and makes it more difficult to predict urban systems (path dependency and individualism vs. predictable patterns of development within stage models or typologies). Beyond the need to overcome the knowledge gaps the proper responses to megatrends and their specific local outcomes are to be analysed and debated.

3. *Competitive and Inclusive Metropolitan Development and Governance*

The process of metropolization of urban agglomerations is driven by the attraction of specialised economic functions under increasingly competitive conditions. These new or enlarged urban functions of control and command ("steering"), their physical and functional allocation in specific areas and networks is resulting in new European and global urban hierarchies. These competitive practises are resulting in both physical enlargement (beyond the cities borders) and intense social change (socio-economic polarisation, socio-demographic diversification and socio-cultural pluralism). The dominant strategies of urban government is to concentrate their strategies and the ever smaller means on their most attractive areas and high skilled labour force ("creative classes"), which pose a threat to socially cohesive and spatially inclusive metropolitan development, which give the challenge of smart urban development a more integrative tone.

4. *Vulnerable and Resilient Cities*

Vulnerability and resilience power for cities and urban agglomerations are related to two different levels, the more general level for entire regions and cities in fields of economy and environment aspects, while social elements become obvious in urban neighbourhoods and/or suburban settlement systems. Competition between regions and cities had increased these imbalances in the past. Old-industrial reasons or deprived neighbourhoods however, had learned to cope with these challenges and developed innovative attempts not only to stand these situations but to bring forward innovative strategies of resilience. Other regions like those in Central European countries are under way with a diversity of results and efforts.

5. *Metabolism of Urban Areas - Resource, Energy and Land Use*

Growing cities and urban agglomerations are enlarging their resource use, which results in a stronger dependence on resource and energy inputs, based on renewable energy sources in cities. These developments

will be shaped by tailored strategies of economics of metabolism (determinants of resource use; resource use and economic impacts) as much as by social and cultural impacts of resource saving strategies. To meet the challenges, new strategies of resource efficient cities has to be developed, including new town and regional planning concepts, technological solutions and forms of participation. Both will strengthen among urban policies the awareness for resource and energy use and will strengthen urban agglomerations as nodes of networks of connectivity.

6. *Innovation Hubs and Living Labs*

Creativity and innovation are seen as the glues for future urban development and cities ever had been the seedbeds of innovation for socio-economic progress, urban culture and civil society. This argumentation was highlighted not at least by the debate about "creative classes", the renaissance of urban lifestyles and innovative assessment and implementation of technological solutions. But what are really the prerequisites of liveable cities and its innovative nodes and quarters? Based on cultural diversity, tolerance, urban lifestyles and open-mindedness of a pro-active civil society radical new types of business scenarios, technological solutions, civic interests, flexible forms of time and space use have to be developed, discussed, integrated and to put into practise.

The **Call for Papers** is now open, abstracts can be submitted until 16 January 2012.

The conference will be held at the University of Technology near the heart of the city of Vienna. Many of the city's sights, hotels and restaurants are within walking distance.



The **General Assembly** will be held on Friday, 21 September 2012, at 05.00 p.m.

For **further information** on the conference, including information on abstract submission please visit <http://eura2012.org>.

For questions concerning the conference please contact info@eura2012.org.

EURA Conference 2011

CITIES WITHOUT LIMITS

23-25 June 2011, Copenhagen, Denmark



Picture by Inger Groenkjaer Ulrich

A total of 235 participants from all around the world took part in the EURA conference 2011 held in central Copenhagen, Denmark. The conference was hosted by The European Urban Research Association (EUURA) in cooperation with the Danish Centre for Strategic Urban Research and University of Aalborg. The research centre is funded by Realdania Founda-

tion and is a cross-disciplinary centre including three institutions: Forest & Landscape, Copenhagen University; Department of Geography and Geology, Copenhagen University and Department of Landscape and Urbanism, Aarhus School of Architecture.

The conference theme 'Cities without Limits' focussed on recent trends of relational understanding of cities. At all levels, urban boundaries are being erased. Global economic relations and local labour and housing markets are creating a trans-localness that make cities increasingly depending upon on one another. Participants were invited to discuss these phenomena across disciplines: architecture, planning, geography and social sciences. Conference papers were submitted for presentation within five tracks. A 6th 'open track' was launched for international research groups to present joint research findings. Approximately 200 papers were submitted:



Picture by Inger Groenkjaer Ulrich

Tracks	Papers
1. Conceptualising cities	36
2. Governance in cities unbound	51
3. Residential livability in urban regions	32
4. Residential metropolitan landscape	43
5. The city of talent	25
6. Open track	8

The general questions of the conference were:

- How to understand the urban as sites of regional and global relations?
- How to govern and plan cities dominated by transnational relations?
- What is the good life in cities without limits?
- How do we meet the environmental challenges of expanding urban relations?

On the last day of the conference, Saturday 25th of June, five different mobile workshops took place in the metropolitan region of Copenhagen. Each of the excursions had its own focus; one being the Copenhagen Harbour, another Copenhagen Fingerplan and a third the Copenhagen heritage. Finally one group went to Malmo, Sweden and the last group experienced Copenhagen by bikes.

Keynote speakers:

- **Associate Professor Lars Winther**, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Cities unbound: Geographies, people and strategies
- **Professor Paola Viganò**, University of Venice, Italy
(Re)-establishing connectivity in metropolitan regions
- **Professor Tim Cresswell**, University of London, UK
Citizenship in worlds of mobility
- **Associate professor Nina-Marie Lister**, Ryerson University, Canada
Ecological Urbanism in the Contemporary Metropolitan Landscape
- **Professor Jan Gehl**, Gehl Architects, Denmark
Designing Connectivity in urban topographies
- **Maurits de Hoog**, Delft University of Technology
Mapping and understanding Megaregions

For further information about the conference Cities without Limits please see the homepage: <http://eura2011.org/>

For further information about the Danish Centre for Strategic Urban Research please see the homepage: www.byforskning.dk

EURA Summer School 2011

RESCALING GOVERNMENT: REFORMING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

18 – 23 September 2011, Vouliagmeni, Attica, Greece



International Centre for Black Sea Studies
Building a Sustainable Future for the Black Sea Area

The 2011 Summer School on "Rescaling Government: Reforming public administration and local government" was organized by EURA (European Urban Research Association) and EUROLOC and hosted and financially supported by the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS). The 2011 Summer School was held in September 18th – 23th 2011 in Vouliagmeni, the coastal zone of Attica, Greece, at the hotel Amarilia.

Local organizers of the Summer School were Prof. Panagiotis Getimis (Panteion University of Athens) and Assoc. Prof. Nikolaos-Komninou Hlepas (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens). In close cooperation with Prof. Hubert Heinelt (Darmstadt University), the local organizers decided on the focus of the Summer School programme.

This year's Summer School aimed at organizing specialized courses for Ph.D. students whose research topics are related to the field of public administration and local government. Given the recent institutional reforms that have been implemented in countries such as Denmark and Greece, the Summer School gave emphasis on the evaluation of territorial and functional reforms and the methodology used for this purpose.



Prospective students had to submit their applications by May 31st 2011. The submission period was then extended until June 30th in order to give more students the opportunity to finish their abstracts and apply for the Summer School. Acceptance was at the discretion of organizers and the final selected participants were informed through confirmation e-mail by July 10th. The participation was limited to 20 people.

In total, 17 PhD students from eight countries (namely from Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Slovakia,

Spain, Turkey and the UK) participated in the Summer School. They were chosen from among 24 applications.

Beside with the local organizers, Prof. Getimis and Prof. Hlepas, Prof. Bas Denters (Twente University of Netherlands, Netherlands), Prof. Hubert Heinelt

(Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany) and Prof. Sabine Kuhlmann (German University of Administrative Sciences, Speyer, Germany) acted as lecturers of the Summer School.

The Summer School was organized along the following programme:

Sunday, 18 September 2011

Travel and arrival at the hotel

Monday, 19 September 2011

10:00–11:30h

Welcome

Dr. Zefi Dimadama, Director General ICBSS

Prof. Hubert Heinelt, President of EURA

Local Organising Committee: Prof. Panagiotis Getimis and Assoc. Prof. Nikolaos-Komninou Hlepas

12:00-14:30 Lecture by Prof. Panagiotis GETIMIS: **"Does scale matter for achieving effective governance? Territorial restructuring"**

Lecture by Prof. Nikolaos-Komninou HLEPAS: **"Do institutions matter? Local government systems and territorial reforms"**

15:30-18:45 Students' presentations and discussion

21:00 Welcome dinner

Tuesday, 20 September 2011

9:30–11:00 Lecture by Prof. Bas DENTERS: **"Does size matter for local democracy? Accountability, effectiveness, and legitimacy"**

11:15-12:45 Discussion of the lectures
14:00-16:45 Students' presentations and discussion

Friday, 21 September 2011

10:00-11:30 Lecture by Prof. Hubert HEINELT: **"How to explain administrative reforms?"**
11:45-13:15 Discussion of the lecture
14:30-17:15 Students' presentations and discussion

Thursday, 22 September 2011

9:30-11:00 Lecture by Prof. Sabine KUHLMANN: **"How to measure the results of institutional reforms? Evaluation of institutional change and performance of newly established institutional settings"**
11:15-12:45 Discussion of the lecture
13:30-14:45 Students' presentations and discussion
15:15-16:00 Final Plenary meeting

17:30 Departure to the archaeological site of Sounio

20:30 Farewell dinner

Friday, 23 September 2011

Departure from hotel and travel

The excursion was aiming at the relaxation of lecturers, participants and organizers after a full 5-day-course Summer School. It was organized to the archaeological site of Sounio, near the Summer School venue. The group was accompanied by a professional tour guide. The excursion contributed to the very friendly atmosphere among students and lecturers.

The local organizing committee as well as EURA are grateful to ICBSS for its valuable financial support for the Summer School. Without this support the Summer School could not have been organized as the PhD students paid only 250 EURO each and had not to pay for accommodation, meals and other costs.

Based on suggestions of PhD students an internet forum has been created where participants have the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas for their further work

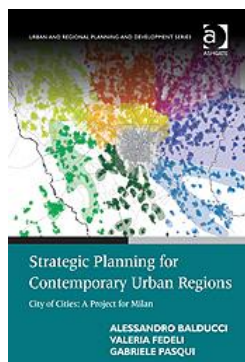
(see <http://www.icbss.org/userRegister.php>).

Recent Publications

This section provides news and information about recent publications on urban issues. If you have any material you would like to see in the next issue please forward it to aura@pg.tu-darmstadt.de

Strategic Planning for Contemporary Urban Region. City of Cities: A Project for Milan

Authored by Alessandro Balducci, Valeria Fedeli and Gabriele Pasqui,
Ashgate 2011



This book is an account of how the Milan Provincial Administration and a team of researchers from Milan Polytechnic worked together to develop a new 'Strategic Plan' for Milan's urban region. Informed by innovative conceptions of both how to understand cities in the contemporary world, and

engage in strategic planning work, this experience has already attracted considerable international attention. The authors now consolidate their contribution into a

comprehensive account which continually relates theory and practice.

Examining the Milan Plan in detail, the book explains the profound transformations which put great pressure on the traditional descriptive tools so planners must engage in the production of new ones. It also proposes that these transformations affect the way in which urban policies and planning processes are designed. The project offers insights into - and new directions for - planning theory more generally, while at the same time testing this powerful and innovative research hypothesis in an important European city empirical study. In detailing the results of this project, this book proposes useful ground-breaking approaches to planning for similar urban regions.

The Second Tier of Local Government in Europe: Provinces, Counties, Départements and Landkreise in comparison

Edited by Hubert Heinelt and Xavier Bertrana
Routledge, 2011



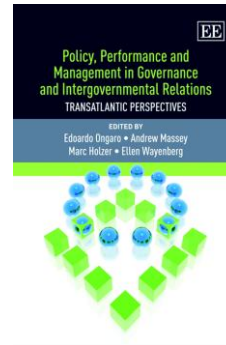
In most European countries processes of decentralisation, regionalisation and reforms of local government reform can be observed which particularly affect Provinces, Counties, *Départements*, *Landkreise* and other second levels of local government.

The recent territorial reforms in Denmark and Greece, the debates surrounding the reform of Provinces in Italy or Spain, the situation of German *Landkreise* as well as the proposals to reform the *Départements* and the Regions in France show that the democratic quality and effectiveness of this territorial level of government is contested in on-going debate focussed on a re-scaling of statehood and the broadly discussed 'shift from government to governance'.

This book includes fourteen country-related descriptions of the intermediate level of local governments and their reform. These chapters are organised along common thematic lines. Thus the individual country chapters reveal both the specific characteristics of particular countries and also similarities shared by these units of local government. The fourteen country-related chapters are combined with a comparative analysis of the institutional setting and reforms of the intermediate level of local governments to highlight general trends but also country-specific features of the on going re-scaling of statehood that is changing government relations and has consequences for local democracy.

Policy, Performance and Management in Governance and Intergovernmental Relations

Edited by Edoardo Ongaro, Andrew Massey, Marc Holzer and Ellen Wayenberg
Edward Elgar, 2011



The trend towards multi-level and intergovernmental governance arrangements has created a need for a new analytic language and for new frameworks of analysis. It has changed the nature of decision-making. This timely

book combines perspective from public policy, public management and public finance and provides new insights into who governs the multi-level and intergovernmental polity and how it is governed, making it an essential addition to the literature. – Steven Van de Walle, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands

This innovative book presents a transatlantic comparison of governance and Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) policy, performance and management. By examining both analytical and empirical differences and similarities between the European Union and the United States, this comprehensive book provides a better understanding of (inter) governmental systems, settings and actors operating in the post New Public Management Era. The expert contributors consider processes of policy formulation and implementation from an intergovernmental point of view, examine issues of performance and accountability that rise in IGR settings and zoom in on the importance and implications of IGR for welfare. Taken together, these insights provide an important next step into the world of transatlantic research and comparison.

For a limited period of time EURA members receive a **35% discount** on price of this book at <http://www.e-elgar.com/>

Scenes, Actors and Spectacles in Contemporary Cities

Authored by Davide Ponzini and Michele Nastasi, Allemandi, 2011



Internationally renowned architects are at centre stage in public debates, not only with reference to designing aesthetically striking artefacts, but also to urban regeneration programmes and urban branding. The narrative of the 'Bilbao effect' has been spreading worldwide, apparently leading cities to compete in collecting spectacular projects and buildings, sometimes with little regard for their urban context, size and functions in the global market. Despite the fact that these forms of urban development have been changing the landscape in several cities, attention and explanations regarding the rationalities implied in such decision making and localization processes are today limited and sometimes misleading. The authors offer a critical reappraisal of oversimplified interpretations of star architecture and its many urban implications. Drawing on the study of relevant architectural decision-making processes in Bilbao, Abu Dhabi, Paris, New York City and the Vitra Campus and on an original photographic corpus, the book argues that these phenomena have high territorial variety, depending on local as well as more contingent factors. It explains that architectural and urban spectacles are often used by urban policymakers in order to drive political consensus, maximize media exposure and eventually cover economic and real-estate interests, potentially inducing perverse or even paradoxical effects. The role and autonomy of architects and planners are evidently weaker in these postmodern urban conditions; nonetheless this book pragmatically outlines critical perspectives for interpreting architectural and urban projects as meaningful elements of contemporary urban landscapes.

Social Geography and Urban Studies titles from The Policy Press

All the titles below are currently available on the website <http://www.policypress.co.uk> with a special website discount.

Urban reflections

Mark Tewdwr-Jones

Drawing on geographical, cinematic and photographic readings, this unique book looks at how places change the role of planners in bringing about urban change, and the public's attitudes to that change. "Here's a new take on ciné and cité by a planning buff who follows the filmic interplay between urban intentions and outcomes, tracking the plot twists over the years in a drama that continues in real time - just watch it." Michael Hebbert, University of Manchester

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847428417&sf1=keyword&st1=Urban+reflections&m=1&dc=9>

Challenging governance theory

Jonathan S Davies

This book develops a Gramscian account of contemporary governance, arguing that the ideology of network governance is part of the neoliberal hegemonic project and addressing the barriers to accomplishing it.

"A robust challenge to the casual acceptance of network governance as the 'way we live now', this book offers a stimulating and provocative critique of governance that is theoretically rich and analytically satisfying. Essential." (Helen Sullivan, University of Birmingham)

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847426147&sf1=keyword&st1=Challenging+governance+theory&m=2&dc=8>

Mixed communities

Gary Bridge, Tim Butler, Loretta Lees

This book draws together a range of case studies by international experts to assess the impacts of social mix policies and the degree to which they might represent gentrification by stealth. "This collection is the definitive analysis of today's urban policy paradox: a friendly language of community and inclusion used to justify policies that threaten exactly what they name - social mix and diversity." Elvin Wyly, Chair of Urban Studies Programme, University of British Columbia

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847424938&sf1=keyword&st1=Bridge&m=1&dc=7>

The future of sustainable cities

John Flint & Mike Raco

This book investigates how the meanings and politics of urban sustainability are being radically rethought in response to the economic downturn and the credit crunch. In this ground-breaking contribution, prominent scholars provide up to date coverage of the impacts of recent changes on key areas of urban planning, including housing, transport, and the environment, and map out core areas for future research.

"Bringing together leading scholars to discuss some of the most pressing concerns about the future condition of our cities, this exciting volume offers a necessary rethink about the challenges confronting sustainable urban development following 'the crisis', and deserves a wide readership among students, academics and policy makers." Gordon MacLeod, Durham University

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847426666&>

Research News

In this section the newly founded think tank Urban Futures – a federation of research institutes in Paris – as well as a newly established DFG research group on "Knowledge strategies in local climate politics" are presented

Urban Futures



Urban Futures is a federation of research institutes in the Paris region.

In March 2011 the "investments for the future" French program identified a hundred research fed-

erations in various fields, to promote leading-edge research. Three of them are dedicated to urban issues (one in Lyon, one in Grenoble and one in Paris called Urban Futures).

Urban Futures brings together to 13 research institutes, 300 permanent researchers and 300 doctoral researchers.

The core of *Urban Future* projects is to carry out cross-cutting interdisciplinary investigations, by taking advantage of the fact that a variety of research and teaching institutes dedicated to urban issues are gathered, or will soon be gathered, in the eastern part of the Paris region. Researchers specialised in: architecture, urban design or planning, transport, environment sciences, will be able to work together on emerging themes.

We have drawn upon four observations to identify a number of significant domains in which a multi-disciplinary approach will help meet key scientific challenges:

- The emergence of globalised metropolises involves rethinking interactions between economic dynamics, technical innovations and social trans-

formations. This also relates, to practices of urban design and architecture based on new geographical scales.

- Urban quality of life and new forms of social vulnerability are increasingly underpinned by accessibility of services, mobility possibilities and command over technical interfaces. Hence the need for a careful analysis of urban usages and technical approaches as well as an examination of how transport and mobility are evolving and a reflection on the resulting new methods of governance.
- The material production of cities in terms of construction, renovation or maintenance - or at the day-to-day operational level that we refer to as the urban metabolism - raise questions that are also bound up with usages, public policy or innovation.
- There is now massive interaction between human urban activities and the environment that requires "decompartmentalisation" of modelling approaches by incorporating physical air and water parameters, urbanisation choices and transport models.

To carry out the research inherent in these observations, we are building structures that will develop multi-disciplinary approaches in the following ways: through exchanges and conferences; through seed-funded joint, internal incentive research programmes; through multi-disciplinary solutions to problems encountered in the professional sphere.

Our other aim is to help building exchanges with international partners. We are thus creating two interna-

tional chairs (one for visiting, internationally renowned researchers, the other to provide scholarships for high-potential post-doctoral researchers), organising a biennial international conference, and building a European Master's program.

Examples of current projects:

- We are creating a call for applications for post-doc researchers,
- We are planning the first international conference for 2013 January,
- We are planning to host the EURA conference in 2014 June,
- We are examining a first set of manuscript proposals for editorial funding,
- We are building two long term partnerships with two local planning institutions.

DFG research group on "Knowledge strategies in local climate politics"

The German Research Council (DFG) will fund with about 2 Million. EURO for the next three years the work of a research group on "Knowledge strategies in local climate politics" at the Urban Research Centre of Darmstadt University of Technology (TU Darmstadt) The project seeks to explain the development of local climate policies by local knowledge or

ders (or epistemologies) underlying political decisions and choices of measures and instruments. Local knowledge orders reflect what is considered in a city to be a factual or normative appropriate action – or not. Local knowledge orders are far from being homogenous. Instead, they may reveal contradictory or competing knowledge claims, particularly in times of political change. The goals of the research group are to identify the mechanisms and practices affecting the selection and generation of knowledge and to explain city-specific ways of addressing the challenge of climate change. This includes adaptation to climate change and mitigation measures.

Empirical studies focus on the three German cities of Munich, Stuttgart and Frankfurt. All of these three cities have developed ambitious measures to become the green capital of Europe or a leading "low carbon city". The six sub-projects of the research group address transport planning and transport management, Europeanization, land use planning, environmental politics, the real estate sector, the local administration and international city networks.

Prof. Dr. Hubert Heintel is the coordinator of the research group. Further participants are Prof. Dr. Arthur Benz, Prof. Dr. Manfred Boltze, Prof. Dr. Michele Knodt, Prof. Dr. Hans Joachim Linke, Prof. Dr. Andreas Pfnür, Prof. Julian Wèkel and Dr. Karsten Zimmermann

Institutional Member Profile

In this section we present the profile of the Metropolitan Research Institute Budapest (MRI)



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Metropolitan Research Institute (MRI), established in 1989, is an internationally recognized independent research, planning and consultancy company based in Budapest, Hungary. We are a multidisciplinary team of experienced professionals (economists, sociolo-

gists, planners) working on different aspects of urban development.

At the core of the interest of MRI research is the development and performance of European cities. For many years the Institute has participated in the planning of Budapest (concept for urban renewal and Strategic Development Concept of the city). Since the 1990s growing number of international projects followed through involvement in UN Habitat, UN ECE, Council of Europe, World Bank, USAID programmes addressing the problems of the transition process of the Central and Eastern European post-socialist countries towards democratic, market-based urban development systems. Since the 2000s MRI has intensified its contacts with EU programmes (FP programmes, URBACT, ESPON, INTERREG) and European city networks (EUROCITIES). These activities covered

the whole of Europe providing the opportunity to put the original east-central European knowledge and experiences into a European perspective.



The different divisions of MRI deal with core issues of sustainable and inclusive development of European cities, such as inner city regeneration, the problems of large housing estates, urban sprawl, rental sector deficiencies, municipal budgeting, urban mobility issues, the problems of ethnic minorities. The analysis of these problems is connected to the surveying of administrative and institutional structures, exploring the performance of different types of governance patterns.

Selected reference themes

- ‘The impact of European demographic trends on regional and urban development’ – report for the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU
- ‘Housing policy studies on social housing, housing affordability, housing allowances, mobility and housing finance’ – for the Hungarian Government
- ‘VADEMECUM Improving housing conditions for

marginalized communities, including Roma through the absorption of ERDF’ – for the Open Society Institute ‘Housing and social exclusion: Welfare policies, housing provision and labour market’ – country report for DG Employment and Social Affairs

- ‘Effects of governance modes on affordability, sustainability and efficiency of the water services in three transition and developing countries’ – cooperative research for the Global Development Network
- Urban and regional mobility strategies for several cities and regions in Hungary
- Preliminary and detailed feasibility studies on congestion charging, park&ride, intermodal nodes, public transport vehicle procurement for Budapest and other cities in Hungary
- ‘Catch-MR (Cooperative approaches to transport challenges in Metropolitan Regions)’ INTERREG IVC project – external expertise for the City of Budapest, BKSZ and BKK
- ‘Governance challenges and models for the cities of tomorrow’ – issue paper for DG Regio
- FP research projects of the European Commission (UGIS, RESTATE, INTERACT, CUHP, DWELLON, INTERMEDIARIES, OSIS, DEMHOW, PLUREL)

Urban Research and Practice

Journal of the European Urban Research Association (EURA)

This section presents the general scope and targets of the journal and present the contents of Volume 4, Issue 3

Urban Research & Practice is published in association with EURA and focuses on urban policy. The journal includes papers that:

- provide a systematic description of :
 - urban issues
 - urban developments
 - urban policies or
 - urban policy-making and policy implementation
- seek to explain variations in urban policies or urban governance cross-sectorally or cross-nationally or that seek to explain such variations over time
- analyse and/or evaluate the effects of urban policies or process of urban governance
- analyse European-wide factors that impact on urban areas, urban policies and urban governance

As well as traditional academic papers, the journal includes a policy section, a project report section and book reviews. The policy section focuses on new policies launched at the European, national and regional levels that are of relevance to a wider audience. The project report section focuses on innovative projects being carried out at a local level (in cities or regions).

One of the key aims of the journal is to seek to bridge the intellectual and geographical 'divides' that currently exist in the field of urban affairs - specifically the North/South divide and the East/West divide and also the divides between distinct academic disciplines.

Since the journal was launched in 2008 it has gone from strength to strength. Now about to enter its fourth volume, the journal has been selected for coverage by SCOPUS, is receiving significant citations in

the journals indexed by the social science citation index. We present the **Table of Contents** of Volume 4, Issue 3, March 2011

Special Issue: Urban problems and issues in contemporary Spanish and Portuguese cities

Guest Editors: Nuria Benach and Andres Walliser

Introduction to the special issue: urban problems and issues in contemporary Spanish and Portuguese cities: *Nuria Benach and Andres Walliser*

Subversion of land-use plans and the housing bubble in Spain: *Eugenio L. Burriel*

The process of residential sprawl in Spain: Is it really a problem?: *Arlinda García-Coll*

Catalysing governance in a paradoxical city: the Lisbon Strategic Charter and the uncertainties of political

empowerment in the Portuguese capital city: *João Seixas*

Area-based initiatives and urban dynamics. The case of the Porto city centre: *José A. Rio Fernandes*

The five challenges of urban rehabilitation. The Catalan experience: *Oriol Nel-lo*

Urban governance and regeneration policies in historic city centres: Madrid and Barcelona: *Ismael Blanco, Jordi Bonet and Andres Walliser*

Policy Article:

The rise of the new European Roma ghettos: a brief account of some empirical studies: *Cătălin Berescu*

Special Book Review Section Urban and spatial planning in/of the European Union

EURA DEVELOPMENTS

At the end of this newsletter we would like to remind you again of the **forthcoming General Assembly**. The meeting takes place at Friday, **21 September 2012, at 05.00 p.m.** during the “Urban Europe – Challenges to Meet the Urban Future” conference in Vienna.

Please also take note of the contact and bank account dates of EURA:

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