EUROPEAN URBAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
An International Network of Urban Scholars

Issue 19

EURA website: http://www.eura.org

Editorial

Meetings are very important for international organizations such as EURA. They give us an opportunity for direct interaction, discussing possible joint interest and plans, if not talking about opportunities to build friendships among urban scholars from different countries. I may not be objective, since I was hosting the last event, but I think that the EURA Warsaw meeting was very successful in promoting such informal contacts. It was also an occasion for important developments for EURA as an organisation. In Warsaw we formally adopted the EURA charter and elected the EURA Board. We also discussed support for the JUNIUS initiative (network of junior scholars interested in urban issues), which was presented in the EURA Newsletter a year ago.

Keeping in mind how joint events are important for us, I am very pleased to tell you that we have developed plans for future meetings. You already know about the EURA 10th Anniversary Conference in Glasgow – there is detailed information about this event on pages 10 and 11 of this issue of the Newsletter. For 2008 our colleagues from Italy have offered to host a major EURA event in Milan (most probably in September 2008), and in 2009 we plan a conference in Athens. In addition, there are still opportunities for smaller workshops under EURA's auspices in 2008 and 2009. Please contact the core members for events – Sandro Balducci or Panos Getimis.

I would like to draw your attention to a piece of information in this issue of our Newsletter. An initiative for junior researchers – JUNIUS – has suggested a special prize for junior researchers investigating urban issues. The EURA board has agreed to implement this idea, and in this Newsletter you can find a call for papers for young scholars. We will try to continue such a way of promoting the most interesting papers prepared by a new generation of urban scholars.

This newsletter will probably reach you just before Christmas, so best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that next year will be very good for European cities and for urban research.

The European Commission seems to wish to put a greater emphasis on urban policies, which gives us more opportunities for comparative, European studies on city planning, development and governance. I hope that EURA will be effective in providing a forum for debates, exchange of experience and facilitating joint research projects. I am very much looking forward to seeing you at our joint events very soon.

Editorial Team
Prof Rob Atkinson
Dr Laurence Carmichael
Julie Triggle

The aims of EURA

- To encourage international exchange and co-operation in relation to urban research
- To stimulate and encourage interdisciplinary and cross-national 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 forward it to Laurence.Carmichael@uwe.ac.uk

Future conferences

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN POLICY MAKING
14-15 February 2007, Bristol, UK

With an increasing emphasis in Europe and beyond on citizen participation, democratic renewal and partnership working, opportunities for citizens as individuals and for citizen organisations to participate in the formulation and implementation of policy have mushroomed. But how far is power being shared or reconfigured? And who benefits from participation? Research to date suggests that the rhetoric does not always match up to reality while, even where there is a commitment to participation, new forms of governance pose new challenges for government bodies, for civil society, and for citizens. These include tensions between representative and participatory democracy; how to handle conflict and diversity; engaging marginalised groups; leadership, representation and accountability; how to avoid co-option.

There is a growing body of research looking at the theory and practice and in this work-in-progress seminar, we want to compare experience across Europe, exploring both the concepts and frameworks that are being used to analyse participation and the empirical evidence that is being amassed. We are approaching leading scholars in different parts of Europe to present an overview of research and their analysis of key concepts and findings. We are also inviting scholars to present research papers at the conference on the following themes:

- Frameworks for analysing citizen participation
- Empirical studies of participation
- Research on key dilemmas
- Evidence of impact
- Methodological and ethical challenges, e.g. in measurement; in adopting participatory approaches.

The seminar will provide an opportunity to bring together case studies from different parts of Europe and, in order to enhance comparability, we will be particularly interested in proposals which address:

- The institutional characteristics of participatory structures: how people are involved and at what level/stage in the policy process; who is involved and in what capacity (users, elected representatives, voluntary associations etc.)
- the assumptions and theories of change underpinning new mechanisms for participation;
- how mechanisms for participation fit with local political structures;
- intended and actual outcomes of participation.

The conference is open to all members of the CINEFOGO Network as well as for other interested colleagues. PhD students are particularly encouraged to apply. The conference will be free for paper-givers and for members of the CINEFOGO Network of Excellence, while travel and some accommodation costs will be covered by each individual participant. Some bursaries will be available for PhD students.

For further details:

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Web:http://www.cinefogo.org/workpackages/wp-14/Activities_wp_14/call-for-papers-citizen-participation

22nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOLID WASTE TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT
18-21 March 2007, Philadelphia, USA

Researchers, educators, government officials, consultants, managers, community leaders and others with an interest in solid waste are invited to submit papers for oral presentation or poster session at the Conference.

Papers related to all aspects of solid waste technology and management are of interest.

For further details:

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Conference Chair
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Email: solid.waste@widener.edu
Web: www.widener.edu/solid.waste

ANNUAL PLANNING RESEARCH CONFERENCE 'THINKING SPACES FOR MAKING PLACES'

10-12 April 2007, Heriot-Watt University, UK

In 2007 the annual Planning Research Conference will be held at the School of the Built Environment at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. The theme relates to the link between research in planning, and practice for planning, with education and skills development as an important linked activity. The Conference will explore the ways that planning research can inform place-making at varying scales and in varying contexts, foster evidence-based practice, and encourage innovation and creativity.

It offers the chance to present and discuss research findings and issues across the whole spectrum of spatial planning. Paper submissions are encouraged from all those interested in research in, and practice for, spatial planning and place-making, and papers bringing an international or trans-national perspective are particularly welcomed.

Issues and topics covered will include the following:

- Urban design
- Sustainable cities
- Growth management
- Resource use
- Urban and rural regeneration
- Governance and reform
- Planning education

In addition, a special session supported by the UK's Department of Communities and Local Government will focus on trans-European research and its implications, via the activities of the European Spatial Planning Observatory Network (ESPON), for which Heriot-Watt University is the UK's contact point.

The Conference will take place over three days (from lunchtime on Tuesday, 10 April to lunchtime on Thursday 12 April, with:

- Themed paper tracks
- Plenary sessions featuring keynote speakers (sponsored by the RTPI)

The Tracks will allow for cross-cutting elements of the Thinking Spaces for Making Places theme, to enable inter-disciplinary discussion.

Provisional tracks are as follows:

1. Culture, identity, and quality of life
2. Sustainable urban form and growth management
3. Regenerating economy, society and space
4. Regional development and resource management

Keynote Speakers will include:

- Professor Andreas Faludi
- Professor Peter Roberts
- Robert Upton

Organised tours and social events will include:

- The Conference Dinner
- Coach tour of Edinburgh city (optional: Thursday afternoon)
- Evening reception within the city

Abstracts for paper presentations are invited from academics, practitioners and research students. Please submit an abstract (maximum 300 words) by Friday 12 January 2007, using the abstract submission function shown in the left hand menu bar or by email to prc2007@sbe.hw.ac.uk.
Abstracts will not be accepted after this point.

For further details:

The Conference Secretary
'Thinking Spaces for Making Places' Conference
School of the Built Environment
Heriot-Watt University
Riccarton, Edinburgh EH14 4AS
UK
Fax: +44 (0)131 451 4617.
Email: prc2007@sbe.hw.ac.uk

URBAN AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION 37TH ANNUAL MEETING: CITIES AND MIGRATION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

25-28 April 2007, Seattle, Washington, USA

Cities, and urban policies, are intrinsically connected to broader patterns of population movement - of migration at international, national, regional and intra-metropolitan levels. This has always been true, but the increasing scale of migration poses new opportunities and challenges for urban planning, urban politics and social relations in cities. Thinking about the different dimensions of migration raises a number of issues that we hope to see discussed at the 2007 UAA Annual Meeting. What are the forces that are driving migration - both the migration of populations and the migration of firms/industries and therefore employment? How have cities planned for the evolution of migration patterns, to the city and within the city? Should these practices be rethought in light of the scope of present day population movements? How do schools plan for who will be in the classrooms in 5 or 10 years time? What kind of housing stock do we need to meet the needs of migrants through the various stages of their insertion into new urban locations?

Diversity has always marked cities and recent migration waves have added levels and intensities of diversity. How are cities meeting these challenges and opportunities? How do national and sub-national policies frame, help or hinder local efforts? What are the mechanisms by which residents make their voices heard and participate in urban politics and policy-making? Increasingly rapid mobility and diversity of urban populations has also called for programs, policies and activities aimed at social inclusion, integration and/or the development of urban citizenship. How should we understand these developments? Are cities becoming primary foci for identity? Should they be?

Holding the 37th Annual Meeting of the UAA in Seattle in 2007 provides a very appropriate site for exploring this theme – highlighting, among other trends, national migration from east to west over the North American continent, and international migrations from the Pacific Rim. We hope that the theme and the location will be of particular interest to international colleagues and those interested in cross-national comparisons. Proposals approaching the theme from varied perspectives are welcome.
Suggested topics include:

- migration within city-regions
- back to the centre and out to the urban fringe
- the impact of national immigration policies on cities
- rural migrants in the cities
- urban policies for the management of diversity
- new immigration trends and their evaluation
- successful policies for immigrant women
- urban voting patterns and spatial patterns of diversity
- governance in the midst of increasing diversity
- comparing urban experiences of different migrant groups

In keeping with the traditions of UAA Annual Meetings we also encourage proposals on the full variety of urban research topics typically found at our conferences (e.g. health, transport, environmental issues, education, poverty/welfare, race/ethnicity, gender relations, economic development, urban theory, urban finance, urban politics, planning, growth management, globalization and cities, technology and urban society). Domestic, international and comparative cases studies play an important role in the conference. UAA Institutional members are encouraged to submit proposals of special interest to their ongoing research and program development efforts.

For further details:

Email: uaa-conf@udel.edu
Web: http://www.eura.org/events.htm

NEW STRATEGIES FOR URBAN NATURAL RESOURCES: INTEGRATING WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, FORESTRY AND PLANNING

14-16 May 2006, Chicago, USA

At this event, state and federal forestry and natural resource agency personnel including researchers; city planners and policymakers who deal with natural resources planning or environmental management; university scientists; professors; students; urban foresters; arborists and horticulturists employed by municipalities, counties or private sector; wildlife biologists; wildlife ecologists; urban planners and architects will come together to address the challenges pertaining to the management of natural resources in urban landscapes and to extend and integrate the knowledge of urban ecology with other disciplines.

We welcome and invite submissions for oral and poster presentations that address the issues and challenges of natural resources in urban environment management.

For further details:

Web: www.InformaLearning.com/Wildlife

12th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN PLANNING, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION SOCIETY and 2ND INTERNATIONAL VIENNA REAL ESTATE CONFERENCE AND GEOMULTIMEDIA 2007

20-23 May 2007, Vienna, Austria

CORP-conferences are held annually since 1996 and are Europe's major congresses on Urban Development and Information Society.

About 400 experts from around the world from the fields of urban planning, transport planning, information and communication technologies, architecture, ecology, real estate, surveying, multimedia technologies and more come together in Vienna to discuss actual tasks and topics on urban planning, regional development and information society in an international and interdisciplinary conference.

Speakers and participants come as well from private companies, research institutions and public administration. The common element is "thinking in spatio-temporal relations" in the field of urban and regional development.

For further details:

Web: www.corp.at

45th INTERNATIONAL MAKING CITIES LIVABLE CONFERENCE ON 'TRUE URBANISM: DESIGNING FOR SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH'

10-14 June 2007, Oregon, USA

An international conference for city officials, practitioners and scholars in architecture, urban design, planning, landscape architecture, transportation planning, health policy and social sciences from many parts of the world to share ideas and establish working relationships.

Paper topics include:

- Designing for physical and social health
- Walkable neighborhoods and physical health
- New designs for mixed-use urban fabric
- Redesigning suburban malls as neighborhood centers
- Transforming commuter suburbs into mixed-use urban villages
- Transit based neighborhood development
- Community participation in architecture and planning
- Teaching urban sustainability
- Classical architecture yesterday and today
- Child and family-friendly urban design
- Integrating diversity through urban planning
- Designing town squares for social life
- Contextual architecture
- Mixed-use infill development

For further details:

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Web: www.LivableCities.org/45ConfPortland.htm

ENHR CONFERENCE: SUSTAINABLE URBAN AREAS

25-28 June 2007, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

The conference theme is Sustainable Urban Areas. The conference will highlight the many aspects of housing and urban issues in relation to sustainability. Sustainability is a broad concept that can be addressed from many different angles. Attention to all approaches and their interrelationships is the key to a sustainable society. A common arrangement is to distinguish social, economic, spatial and environmental qualities relating to sustainability.

In the conference these will all come to the fore. Plenary sessions with appealing keynote speakers will address current debates in housing like the future role of social housing and the pros and cons of the demolition of housing estates. In addition to these purely housing related topics, items related to sustainability will also be discussed, like transformation processes within the city and at the regional level.

Plenary sessions will be organised around two keynote speakers concluding with a debate.

Details on the conference's theme, workshop topics, as well as other information are available at the conference web page.

For further details:

Organizing committee ENHR Conference
OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies
Jaffalaan 9, 2628 BX Delft
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0)15 278 3005
Fax: +31 (0)15 278 4422
Email: info@enhr2007rotterdam.nl
Web: http://www.enhr2007rotterdam.nl

AESOP CONFERENCE 'PLANNING FOR THE RISK SOCIETY: DEALING WITH UNCERTAINTY, CHALLENGING THE FUTURE'

10-14 July 2007, Naples, Italy

The conference's main theme, the risk, is not just a concern for the hosting city, but more generally a challenging issue to planning theorists and practitioners.

As a concept, risk includes different meanings and dimensions, such as natural risk, security, human risk on the environment, conflicts and social marginality in peripheral areas. In this perspective, it is to be connected to the more "classic" issue of uncertainty as a basic dimension of planning practice, rising new questions on contemporary metropolitan government all over Europe. Studies on this matter – such as Beck's and Giddens's in the field of social sciences – open a new theoretical framework where the relation between planning and ethics becomes a key-issue, in a planning perspective based on shared values such as trust, cooperation and mutual care.

Consequently, risk deals also with social instability, marginality and fragmentation issues, as some recent UE urban policies have stressed out focusing on strategies of cooperation, inclusion and partnerships.

As a local mainframe, risk is mainly related to the volcanic risk in Napoli metro area: in these past years, some cultural shift occurred in plans and policies dealing with natural risk, moving from an "emergency planning ideology" to a deeper concern for environmental and landscape planning issues, as well as local-based development policies.

All over Europe, in times of global changes and conflicts, this concern for risk shows different declinations, and the Aesop Conference can be a starting point to put the debate forward with original and innovative research contributions.

For further details:

Organisation office
Email: organization@aesop2007napoli.it

10TH ANNIVERSARY EURA CONFERENCE: 'THE VITAL CITY'

12-14 September 2007, Glasgow, UK

EURA EVENT

This is a major conference on the theme of The Vital City being held under the auspices of EURA. The conference will celebrate its 10th Anniversary and be an opportunity for urban researchers and policy makers to engage in lively debate and exchange knowledge and ideas about the challenges involved in achieving The Vital City in different European settings.

Further information on this conference including the call for papers can be found on pages 10 and 11.

For further details:

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3rd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON 'COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: GLOBAL AND LOCAL CHALLENGES'

26-28 September 2007, Lucerne, Switzerland

The Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Lucerne School of Social Work (HSA) is organising the 3rd international congress on "Community Development: Global and Local Challenges" for September 2007. The congress continues the course of the first one which took place in Bordeaux (2003) and the second in Sao Paolo (2005). It aims to explore the role and meaning of 'community development' and 'animation socioculturelle' in response to challenges posed by globalisation. It also aims to initiate an exchange between the different traditions and discourses as well as launching a broad international network.

For further details:

Web: www.communitydevelopment2007.ch

3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIAL CAPITAL FOUNDATION 'MULTI-ETHNICITY: A BOON OR A BANE?'

15-19 November 2007, Honolulu, Hawaii

Multi-ethnicity is subject to a heavily contested debate. Its importance for society is huge: first, because it developed considerably in the Western countries in only a few decades; second, because its emergence involves - beyond an increased ability for cross-cultural communication - the transformation of crucial ancestral dimensions, such as culture, biology, family relationships, and relation to ancestors, as well as concepts of sexuality and death, and belonging to a nation or community.

These transformations may have considerable impact on social behaviour in a wide range of contexts, including economic life and political democracy. All these transformations are far from being an "easy process", contrary to what political leadership may suggest.

This conference will bring together social scientists, economists, policymakers, social workers and the widest spectrum of the involved players to explore the issues arising in an increasingly multiethnic society. The objective is to make progress on the understanding of these issues, by shedding light on some current developments and drafting innovative, practical responses.

The Social Link Cycle is a line of conferences dedicated to the bond between people within society, and its contemporary crisis.

For further details:

Email: conferences@socialcapital-foundation.org
Web: http://www.socialcapital-foundation.org/conferences/synopsis.htm

ACSP-AESOP 4th JOINT CONGRESS 'BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: CELEBRATING THE CITY'

6-11 July 2008, Chicago, USA

Following three successful ACSP-AESOP Joint Congresses in Oxford (1991), Toronto (1996) and Leuven (2003) the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) and the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) will hold their 2008 annual conferences together at the fourth Joint Congress in Chicago. We extend an invitation to colleagues from North America, Europe and beyond to join us in what will be a major gathering of planning scholars.

The conference theme "Bridging the Divide: Celebrating the City" focuses on the mediating role of cities in conflicts between racial and ethnic groups.

More information on ACSP: http://acsp.org
More information on AESOP: http://www.aesop-planning.com

The conference hotel is located in the heart of downtown Chicago, with tourist and shopping attractions nearby. Chicago is home of the well-known 1909 Chicago Plan by Burnham and Bennett, the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, important 20th century architecture, a dramatic mayor-led city greening program, the acclaimed Millennium Park, the American Planning Association, the Congress for New Urbanism, summer festivals and diverse neighbourhoods. In many ways the city has reinvented itself in recent

years and is now a major tourist destination. The contrast between a downtown sky-line, to match any in the world, with the vast Lake Michigan is a startling urban experience as well as being a stunning example of fine city planning and adventurous urban design.

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is a large, public, comprehensive research university with 25,000 students located on the edge of Chicago's vibrant downtown – the famous Loop. It has an explicit "Great Cities Commitment" which is led by the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA). The College offers masters and Ph.D. degrees in both urban planning and policy and public administration, and has seven urban research centers.

The Urban Planning and Policy Program is the largest graduate planning progam in the U.S. with over 200 students and a distinguished faculty. The faculty is heavily engaged in research and policy advice work in the city, enabling the conference to take full advantage of the strengths of the Program.

More information: http://www.uic.edu/cuppa

Joint Congress Committee:
Peter Ache, Helsinki University of Technology
Robin Boyle, Wayne State University
Simin Davoudi, Newcastle University (co-chair)
Michael Hibbard, University of Oregon
Karel Meier, Czech Technical University of Prague
Curt Winkle, University of Illinois at Chicago (co-chair)

Local Host Committee:
Urban Planning and Policy Program
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago
Robin Hambleton and Curt Winkle, co-chairs

Past conferences

EcoProcura Conference
20-22 September 2006, Barcelona, Spain

Over 60 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emission reductions achievable through sustainable procurement – EcoProcura Call for Action launched!

360 delegates from 53 countries gathered at the sixth EcoProcura conference issued a strong Call for Action to all key actors around the world to deepen their commitment towards spending public money on sustainable products and services – to make their words a practical reality.

- Driving sustainability through procurement

More than 1 trillion is spent by European public authorities each year. Participants at the conference in Barcelona recognised the immense power of public procurers in bringing about huge environmental, social and economic improvements through their purchasing actions – locally and globally.

Over 60 million tonnes of greenhouse gas reductions alone could be achieved by European public authorities buying green electricity. Other major improvements could be made through public authorities buying energy efficient computers, green buildings, non-toxic cleaning products, organic food, low-emission buses, and helping to move the market towards more sustainable products and services.

Ensuring that high labour standards are met by public contractors, or buying Fair Trade products are examples of how to drive social improvements through procurement.

- Sustainability doesn't cost more!

Speakers demonstrated that buying sustainably does not mean higher costs. Huge savings can be made in usage and disposal costs by buying environmentally friendly products. The possibilities of joint procurement in driving prices down were also highlighted.

Top industry representatives also sent a clear signal to the conference – "if you demand it, we will supply it, at a good price".

- Now is the time to act

Many very successful experiences of sustainable procurement were presented from around the world – the message was clear: sustainable procurement works.

The call from the conference, and at the heart of ICLEI´s Procura+ Campaign, is to now make sustainable procurement mainstream - the rule and not the exception.

With a clear legal framework, a large number of easy-to-use tools to support implementation, and a huge collection of impressive real life examples there is now no reason not to act.

Delegates at the conference made a strong commitment to sustainable procurement, and called on all others around the world – in all sectors and at all levels – to join the movement.

For further details:

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Web: www.iclei.org/itc/ecoprocura2006

EURA developments

We welcome the following new EURA governing board members



Dr Dubravka Alibegovic

The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
djurlina@eizg.hr

Dubravka Jurlina Alibegovic is a researcher and Head of Department for Public Sector at the Institute of Economics, Zagreb. She is co-coordinator, team leader and consultant in many projects and studies regarding budgeting and development at regional and local level, intergovernmental fiscal relations, local public finance, infrastructure financing, and financing of science and education. She is consultant to government agencies, international organizations and sub-national local self-government. She is author and co author of several studies and articles on financial aspects of local and regional development, analysis of the economic and fiscal situation in local areas in Croatia, fiscal aspects of the process of decentralization, budgeting, financial analysis model for municipalities and cities and financing of education and science. For more information, please see the EURA website: http://www.eura.org



Ulas Bayraktar

IEP-Paris/University of Mersin, Turkey
ulasbayraktar@yahoo.com

Ulas Bayraktar is a PhD candidate at Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. He is at the same time researcher at the University of Mersin, Turkey. In the framework of his PhD research, he has been comparing the local political life in two Turkish cities with the objective of identifying local socio-political factors that facilitate or impede the introduction of new participatory mechanisms. His domain of interest also covers local democracy, urban politics, local governments, civic participation, leadership patterns, as well as social movements in the local politics.



Dr Laurence Carmichael

University of the West of England, UK
Laurence.carmichael@uwe.ac.uk

Laurence Carmichael is a Research Fellow in the Cities Research Centre, Faculty of the Built Environment, University of the West of England. She is currently working on the European Research Project G-FORS, exploring interactions between knowledge and modes of governance in local environment policies. She has worked in the past on other EU funded projects, on bidding, coordination and research, and has been involved in various consultancy work for the UK government, outside agencies or voluntary bodies on research examining urban governance, community involvement and impact of projects/programmes at the local level. Laurence edits the EURA newsletter. She is also involved in her local community as District Councillor in Stroud, currently portfolio holder for community cohesion in the Stroud District Council Cabinet, Chairman of various committees including the Safer Communities partnership which involved local and regional public bodies and agencies as well as the voluntary sector. She is also the Chairman of a local twinning association and Trustee of the Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau.

You can now download the revised EURA charter from: http://www.eura.org/about.htm

At the Warsaw EURA board meeting, it was decided to set up a core group that will assist the President in running the daily issues of the association. The core group members are:

President	Pawel Swianiewicz
Vice President	Rob Atkinson (also responsible for the EURA journal "Urban Policy and Practice" and for financial issues)
Events	Sandro Balducci and Panos Getimis
Publicity of EURA (newsletter, website)	Laurence Carmichael and Jacob Larsen
Relations with JUNIUS	Ulas Bayraktar and Pawel Swianiewic
Relations to other organisations	Robin Hambleton and Liliana Padovani

In September of this year EURA signed a contract with the publishers Taylor and Francis to publish a journal. The contract runs for five years with three issues published each year. Depending upon the success of the journal there is the opportunity to move to four issues per year. The Editorial Board of the Journal will be as follows (drawn from the EURA Executive Committee):

Professor Rob Atkinson (Editor)
Dr Ivan Tosics (Policy Editor)
Dr Jan Erling Klausen (Practice Editor)
Dr Cristiana Rossignolo (Book Review Editor)
Professor Bas Denters
Professor Panos Getimis
Professor Robin Hambleton
Professor Hubert Heinelt
Professor Christian Lefèvre
Dr Jacob Norvig Larsen
Dr Paula Russell
Dr Pawel Swianiewicz

Dr Laurence Carmichael will be the Editorial Assistant.

The focus of the journal will be on urban policy; however, urban policy will be defined in as `wide' a way as possible to attract papers that address the following areas:

i. A focus on `urban' issues (e.g. race/ethnicity, immigration, employment/unemployment, poverty/social exclusion, quality of life; segregation and social polarisation, spatial planning, the urban environment, uneven economic development at all levels from the Global to the local that impacts on urban areas);

ii. Urban policy developments at European national, regional and local levels; regarding:

- economic developments and policies that have a specific impact on urban areas;
- spatial developments and spatial planning and housing policies that have an impact on urban areas
- developments and policies that have an impact upon the urban environment and urban sustainability.
- developments and policies in a range of general policies (e.g. on health, employment, education, transport) that have impacts on urban areas/policy. These papers would need to clearly address the `urban dimension' and demonstrate how general policies have particular `urban effects'.

iii. Comparative studies of urban issues and urban policy in European countries (either across or within countries). These studies can pertain to the type of issues and policies identified under point ii.

iv. Analyses of urban governance and urban policy-making at both European, country, regional and local levels (to include issues of multilevel governance, multi-actor governance and networks of multiple local actors).

Taking into account the above broad definition of urban policy the journal will include papers:

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

The proposed journal will include a wide variety of contributions of both a theoretical and empirical nature, ranging from traditional academic articles of 8000-9000 words in length, shorter policy papers of 2000-4000 words and reports of innovative action of 1000-2000 words. Hopefully this will allow us to attract a readership of academics, policy makers and practitioners. The shorter policy papers will be a distinctive feature of the journal aiming to facilitate dialogue between the academic and policy communities. The Editor will also look to commission exchanges between the academic and policy communities on particular issues drawing on EURA's links with the policy community.

The journal will 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. The journal will initially be published three times a year with a possibility of moving to quarterly publication once the journal has been established. We have also negotiated an agreement with the publishers to provide reduced subscriptions to individual members of EURA at a rate of 40 per year. Unfortunately the publishers were unwilling to provide a reduced rate for institutional members of EURA; however, individuals from institutional members of EURA will have access to the reduced rate.

10th Anniversary EURA Conference
'The Vital City'

12-14 September 2007, Glasgow
www.eura2007.org.uk

UNIVERSITY of GLASGOW

EUROPEAN URBAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
An International Network of Urban Scholars

This is a major conference on the theme of The Vital City being held under the auspices of the European Urban Research Association (EURA). EURA brings together an inter-disciplinary network of urban researchers from across Europe and beyond. It provides a forum for cross-national debate on urban policy and acts as a bridge between research and policy in this rapidly urbanising world. The conference will celebrate its 10th Anniversary and be an opportunity for urban researchers and policy makers to engage in lively debate and exchange knowledge and ideas about the challenges involved in achieving The Vital City in different European settings.

Call for Papers

There is an emerging conventional wisdom about European cities which argues that they are vital to the future of our societies. They are engines of regional and national development in advanced economies dependant on innovation, human capital and connectivity. In an era of high mobility, cities can offer high quality environments and sustainable patterns of development. They can also provide social and cultural vitality in the context of increasing population diversity and fluidity. Indeed, many cities are currently undergoing revitalisation.

Yet many questions remain for urban policy and research. Is the new thinking consistent with the challenges of social inclusion? Are consumption-orientated urban strategies sustainable in economic and ecological terms? Are there losers as well as winners among cities in the more competitive environment? What are the roles of national governments and the EU in balancing territorial cohesion and globalisation? Can fuzzy concepts of cohesion, competitiveness and sustainability be sharpened and can the propositions linking these processes be validated empirically? What happens to neighbourhoods?
Papers are invited which address these or related questions around the following themes:

- Resurgent European Cities
- Diversity, cohesion and the richness of cities
- Branding the distinctive city
- The urban environment and 'quality of place'
- Labour markets in the new Europe
- Neighbourhood dynamics and urban vitality
- Urban Governance
- Community activism and civic innovation
- Health and public policy
- Real estate development and city planning
- Housing organisation and finance
- Urban form, transport and sustainability

The organisers particularly welcome innovative, forward-looking papers which could include theoretical contributions and think-pieces on how to secure urban vitality; evaluations of policy and practice in individual cities and countries; and reflections on the experience of cross-national policy transfer.

Papers which explore relevant issues beyond the themes identified are also welcome.

Plenary Speakers

- Bea Campbell, independent writer and commentator on cities and society.
- Greg Clark, a city and regional development advisor, currently Chair of the OECD Forum of Cities and Regions and Advisor to the UK Government and Greater London Authority.
- Sako Musterd, Professor of Social Geography, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- Michael Storper, Professor of Economic Geography, London School of Economics; Professor of Economic Sociology, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris; Professor of Regional and International Development, University of California, Los Angeles.



Prizes and Special Issues

- The inaugural 'Young EURA' award for the best paper submitted to the conference for students, ph.d. candidates or persons who obtained a ph.d. degree not earlier than in 2006 and who are under 35 years old on 1 March 2007.
- A Special Issue of the new journal Urban Research and Practice. Journal of the European Urban Research Association on the theme of The Vital City will draw on the best papers submitted to the conference.

Study Tours

Glasgow is engaged in a major resurgence and many aspects of The Vital City are on view here from waterfront development, growing financial and creative 'quarters' and large scale neighbourhood renewal. However, substantial social and economic challenges remain, meaning that the city is absorbed in a constant battle to revitalise itself. For Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, the challenge is rather to manage economic growth in an environmentally and socially sustainable way.

The first afternoon of the conference is devoted to study tours of Glasgow and Edinburgh, giving participants an opportunity to see and hear about the challenges of delivering The Vital City in these contrasting cities.

How to submit an abstract

1. Abstracts can be submitted either:
   (a) by email to Elizabeth Nicholson (e.m.nicholson@lbss.gla.ac.uk)

or

   (b) via the online Abstract Submission Form in the conference website.

2. Please provide:
   (a) main Author's contact details – full name, job title, postal address, work telephone number and email address
   (b) three key words

3. Word Count: 200–400 words

4. Submission deadline: Friday 30 March 2007

All abstracts will be refereed prior to acceptance.

Key Dates

30 March 2007	Deadline for submission of abstracts
27 April 2007	Date of notification of abstract acceptance
29 June 2007	Last date for 'early bird' booking
12 Sept. 2007	Conference commences with study tours and 10th Anniversary Ceilidh for EURA
13–14 Sept. 2007	Conference business: mix of plenary and parallel workshop sessions

Conference Location

The conference will take place in the campus of the University of Glasgow in The Western Infirmary Lecture Theatre and The Wolfson Medical Building. With its Gothic Revival architecture, the University provides an impressive setting and is right in the heart of the city's vibrant West End.

The remainder of the city's many attractions are readily accessible and Scotland's spectacular and unspoilt mountain and coastal scenery is within easy reach. September can be a good time to holiday in Scotland.

Conference Organisers

The conference is being organised by the Department of Urban Studies at the University of Glasgow, one of the UK's foremost and largest centres of research and teaching on urban issues. The Department is at the forefront of research in a number of areas, including: city competitiveness, neighbourhood regeneration, social justice and housing. It was awarded a 5 rating in the last 2001 Research Assessment Exercise (2001).

Important websites

www.eura2007.org.uk
http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/urbanstudies/

Communities Scotland
Working for housing and regeneration

GHA
GLASGOW HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD

Glasgow
CITY COUNCIL

Recent Publications

This section provides news and information about recent publications by members. If you have any material you would like to see in the next issue please forward it to Laurence.Carmichael@uwe.ac.uk

Delwit, P., Pilet, J-B., Reynaert, H. and Steyvers, K. (eds)
Towards DIY-Politics? Participatory and Direct Democracy at the Local Level in Europe

This book is the second in the series 'Comparative Local Politics'. It focuses on one of the 'hot items' in the contemporary debates on local politics as device for democracy. In many countries, 'participation' became the new mantra in politics. Participatory and direct democracy were seen as a positive complement to their representative counterpart, and sometimes even as its potential successor. In this context, new forms of participation such as interactive policy-making, referenda and participatory budget were introduced.

The local level was often used as the first place to test these new institutional devices. The governmental level 'closest-to-citizens' appeared as an appropriate laboratory to assess participatory democracy.

While participatory reforms have been the framework for previous studies, lesser attention is paid to the actual assessment of these reforms. This book tries to tackle this question by focussing on those who govern, the governed and policy-making as the result of their interaction. Combining comparative with country-wise studies, this book collects contributions from European experts on direct and participatory democracy. It sheds in-depth light on the practices and the challenges for local democracy.

On the editors
Pascal Delwit is professor of political science at the CEVIPOL of the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Jean-Benoit Pilet is post-doctoral researcher in political science at the CEVIPOL of the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Herwig Reynaert is professor in political science and president of the Centre for Local Politics at the Department of Political Science of Ghent University.

Kristof Steyvers is assistant-professor in political science and researcher at the Centre for Local Politics at the Department of Political Science of Ghent University.

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Sullivan, H., Barnes, M. and Matka, E. (2006)
Collaborative Capacity and Strategies in Area-based Initiatives.
Public Administration 84(2), 289-310

Despite considerable evaluator investment in examining partnership activity in UK public policy initiatives, little attention has been paid to the role of strategy in supporting the generation and harnessing of the resources necessary to collaborate effectively. This paper focuses on one of the first New Labour initiatives – Health Action Zones (HAZ) – and draws on national evaluation findings to delineate local strategies, assess their application in practice and reflect on their contribution to collaborative action.

The paper argues that even within nationally constrained policy initiatives there is sufficient flexibility for local actors to select strategies to steer collaborative effort, but these strategies are informed by their operating context and are liable to change in response to experience and changes in context. In addition, the evaluation findings suggest that effective strategies are those which harness collaborative capacity across a range of dimensions. The paper concludes by identifying implications for theory, policy and evaluation.

Helen Sullivan is Professor of Urban Governance, Cities Research Centre, University of the West of England. Marian Barnes is Professor of Social Research, Institute of Applied Social Studies, University of Birmingham. Elizabeth Matka is Research Fellow, Institute of Applied Social Studies, University of Birmingham.

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Keiner, M., Koll-Schretzenmayr, M. and Schmid, W.A. (eds) (2005)
Managing Urban Futures: Sustainability and Urban Growth in Developing Countries.
ISBN 0 7546 4417 0

Urbanization is one of the most powerful forces influencing global sustainability. It is dominated by three factors: population growth, rural-urban migration and subsequent urban expansion. Perhaps nowhere are these factors more dominant than in developing countries. This volume brings together leading experts including Alan Gilbert, John Friedmann, Saskia Sassen and Janice Perlman to explore the conflicting challenges of rapid urbanization in developing countries. While all have to contend with key issues such as social segregation, poverty, and loss of governability, the ongoing forces of urban growth vary from country to country.

By comparing the challenges of urbanization in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, this book puts forward a new way of thinking about mega- and million-cities in developing countries – one that promotes their vital function in society as engines of ideas, technologies, societal change, democratic transformation and loci of political will to build a new regime of global sustainability.

Contact:
Ashgate Publishing
Web: www.ashgate.com

Urban Research News and Information

This section provides news and information about research activities in Europe and elsewhere. If you have any material you would like to see in the next issue please forward it to Laurence.Carmichael@uwe.ac.uk

New research activities at University of Pardubice, Czech Republic

In 2005, the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic continued with the research programme "Research for Regional Development" and opened new research projects focused mainly on policy improvement and new planning and management tools at the local and regional levels.

There are three new projects in the Faculty of Administration, University Pardubice and its partners, Technical University of Brno and University of Hradec Králové. Local tourism improvement is an integral part of development strategies in the Czech and Moravian cities and towns. Municipalities support mainly mobilization of cultural and historical heritage. There is also other potential in our cities and towns, which is of municipal interest, for instance contemporary architecture. Its contribution to local tourism is very small despite its potential if we compare with western Europe. The projects aim is to create tools for local government, which could increase contemporary architecture's potential as a product for tourism. The city of Hradec Králové will be a case study. In addition suburbanization (urban sprawl) has become a phenomenon of urbanization in the last 10 years. Small towns, which lie in the hinterland of large cities, start to grow up due to migration from large city to small towns. There is not enough information for small town's local governments about the implications of such developments. The projects aim is to describe problems connected with suburbanization in small towns and find tools to assess the optimal size for economic development of small towns. The Královéhradecky Region and City of Hradec Králové will be our case studies.

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Call for Scholars

The Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies
International Urban Fellows Program in Urban Studies

Seeking qualified candidates for a Fall or Spring 2007-2008 or 2007-2008 academic year Urban Fellowship at Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Candidates must have demonstrated a high degree of experience and professional competence in urban studies research, and be capable of carrying out independent research and inquiry.

Additional factors:

- Cross-national research proposal on a policy issue related to the growth, decline, and/or revitalization of cities
- At minimum, a university diploma that is the equivalent of an American Bachelor of Arts or Science degree
- High degree of written and spoken English fluency
- Urban scholars, policymakers, and practitioners are eligible

The successful candidate will conduct research at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies, prepare a paper for presentation at the Institute and participate in the 37th annual conference of the International Urban Fellows Association in Edinburgh, Scotland in June, 2007.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS SPECIAL FUNDING FOR SWEDISH AND ITALIAN SCHOLARS AND PRACTIONERS

Interested parties are invited to the website http://www.jhu.edu/ips for additional information about the International Fellows Program in Urban Studies and an application form.

Applications for September, 2007 are due April, 2007

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Green structures and Urban Planning

European Action Cost C 11, 2000-2004
Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Objectives

One of the main objectives of the action was to reach a better understanding of the role played by planning, design and management in the interactions between green and built-up areas. The other aim is to examine how green areas contribute to the quality of life of urban citizens and to the quality of natural habitats.

This topic "Green structures and urban planning" appeared as an important one in the general debate about the impacts of urban sprawl. The contradictions between the advantages of compact cities and the needs and demands for space and nature, require that we examine knowledge and practice further. The cities of the fifteen European countries belonging to the action all present very different sets of circumstances, but the topic covered is relevant for all.

Implementation

At the outset of the action, five main topics were raised: communication, skills, power relationships, green belts and corridors, water management. Additional ones came later on.

These topics need a multidisciplinary approach, due to the various qualities and uses of green structures for human leisure, natural habitats, microclimatic conditions, flood control, space organisation. The group is sharing experience through field visits. Three working groups are dedicated to Ecology, to Human issues and to Policies.

In the final year, discussions between the groups have taken place, in order to exchange knowledge, prepare the results and propose general outcomes and recommendations. A book, synthesis and the contributions of the working group will offer conclusions on the findings.

Dissemination of results

The final Conference offered key-note speakers an opportunity to assess the research project. The e-book is available on our website.

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A comparative tale of two Turkish cities: Participatory mechanisms in Bursa and Mersin

The objective of the study that I carried out in the framework of my PhD is to identify some of the contextual factors that determine the eventual success and thus democratic impact of new participatory mechanisms such as city councils, thematic citizens' groups and district organisations introduced by a nationwide project, namely Local Agenda 21 project. The cities chosen as the empirical field of the study lay actually at the very opposite ends of a presumed scope of democratic performance; while Bursa has been considered as one of the best national practices of LA21, Mersin has not managed to achieve any significant democratic change through the mechanisms introduced by the project.

Departing from this obvious dissimilarity between these Turkish cities, I tried to understand which and how local contextual factors have led to such a contradictory outcome. Three major aspects appeared to be determining. First, the differences in the attitudes and political vision as well as tendencies of the mayors of these cities led me focus to the role of local leadership in such participatory processes. Secondly, the quantitative and qualitative features of the local associative life has appeared be quite determining. But instead of just pointing to such differences in local civil societies, I tried to understand the reason of this associative dissimilarity and the impact of state's policies seemed to be very influential in the determination of local associative geography. Finally, the urban coalitions among different groups of local actors backing such efforts appeared to be closely associated to the eventual success of the examined participatory process.

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Amsterdam shares experience and knowledge on urban issues in a European perspective

City of Amsterdam
Development Corporation

Urban development needs to respond to many challenges: social, economic, cultural as well as technical. It is a complex process that can be better comprehended thanks to the exchange of experience.

The Development Corporation of the City of Amsterdam strives to optimise the development of Amsterdam's territory and delivers expertise on development projects. Other cities encounter challenges similar to those of the Development Corporation. That is the reason why the Development Corporation published several English studies on different urban issues: housing, land use and urban development. By these studies, the Development Corporation promotes best practices in a European perspective.

The following English studies are available in the Development Corporation. In addition a booklet was published 'Urban issues in Europe-The Amsterdam Development Corporation' presenting a summary of each study.

THEMES	STUDIES
Housing	● Like that! How to build with high quality and reasonable costs? ● Living on high levels: trend, quality and costs of high-rise housing in Amsterdam ● From stagnation to stimulation, ● How to accelerate housing production in Amsterdam? ● Incentives for housing production, 15 European cities compared ● How to stimulate housing production? Amsterdam, Helsinki and Stockholm exchange their experience
Land Use	● Public ground lease in European cities ● Land price policies in European cities
Urban Development	● Plaberum, Amsterdam management tool for its spatial and development process ● France and State Aid in urban development ● The French city challenge programme ● Big City Policy in Germany ● Comparison research on the management of URBAN II

If you want to receive one of the studies or the booklet, the Development Corporation will be pleased to send it to you! Don't hesitate to let us know whether you want to exchange experience with the City of Amsterdam!

One interesting report is the:

'Incentives for housing production, 15 European cities compared' The Development Corporation of Amsterdam issued a new report on housing production

The main objective of this report is to find out which tools European cities have developed to optimise their housing production and development process. The decision to elaborate this report followed the publication of a comparative study between Helsinki, Amsterdam and Stockholm on the issue: How to stimulate housing production? This study revealed interesting findings and brought to light the benefits of the sharing of knowledge between the 3 cities. Thus the Development Corporation Amsterdam decided to deepen the report and sent a questionnaire to 15 additional European cities to get information on their practices regarding incentives for housing production. Berlin, Frankfurt, Paris, Nantes, Strasbourg, Lyon, Porto, Barcelona, Seville, Bologna, Florence, Birmingham, Oslo, Copenhagen and Vienna took time to answer the questionnaire. The results were analysed, displayed and categorised in the report 'Incentives for housing production'.

With this report and the sharing of knowledge, the Development Corporation has attempted to provide key information to find answers to current challenges regarding housing and urban development.

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Development Corporation Amsterdam, a department of the city of Amsterdam, carried out research on BroedplaatsAmsterdam, a policy to create space for artists and creative people in the subculture of Amsterdam. The research examines this policy and the possibility of transfering it to the cities of Milan, Turin and Barcelona.

The research concerns the actual description of the project as an instrument for cultural policies and urban regeneration planning in the European cities.

The work will be composed of three different parts: a theoretical background describing the context of cultural and economical policies in Amsterdam; an analysis of this project showing its origins, its evolution, its implementation, its instruments and four case histories; an "export framework" to investigate the possibility of its transferability to the three cities.

The research will be available in March 2007.

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Write about your research

We welcome news of your research for inclusion in the next EURA newsletter.
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Institutional Member Profile

In this issue we profile the Faculty of Geography and regional studies, Warsaw University

Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies, Warsaw University

Geography has existed at Warsaw University since 1918, but the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies was established in 1977. Currently there are around 100 academic teachers and researchers and more than 50 support staff employed at the Faculty. The Dean of the Faculty is prof. Andrzej Richling.

The Faculty conducts an extensive teaching programme. Currently it has over 1,200 students on bachelor (B.A.), master (M.A.) and doctoral (Ph.D.) courses and if offers diplomas in geography as well as in spatial management. MA. Students of geography may choose among eight disciplines, while the spatial management course is arranged in two major streams: (i) Spatial management and globalization, (ii) Strategic planning of regional and local development.
In September 2006 the Faculty has undergone organizational change and the current structure consists of three institutes:

1. Institute of Physical Geography
   (director: prof A. Magnuszewski),
2. Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and
   Spatial Management
   (director: prof. A. Kowalczyk),
3. Institute of Regional and Global Studies
   (director: prof. M. Czerny).

Institutes are made up of 12 departments and there are six-departmental organizational units.

Urban research is split between several units or research teams of the Faculty.

Institute of Physical Geography

In the Institute of Physical Geography research areas include (among others) human induced transformations of environment in urban areas and environment factors of physical planning. In 2002-2005 prof. Malgorzata Gutry-Korycka coordinated Polish participation in the implementation of an Urban Sprawl project, financed by the EU through the 5th Research Framework (the Polish team had an inter-disciplinary character and there were also researchers from the Department of Urban Geography and Spatial Organization and Department of Local Development and Policy involved in the implementation of the project).

Institute of Regional and Global Studies

In the Institute of Regional and Global Studies research areas include (among others) development and internal structure of cities in Latin America, Asia and Africa, and the impact of globalization on changes in cities in developing countries. The main focus is put on the spatial expansion of urban area, social, political and environmental consequences of such processes, the principal factors of development of small and medium size towns and cities, the role of culture and heritage in the economic and social transformations, on the role and formation of public and private spaces in the cities.

Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management

While urban issues are among several areas investigated in the above described institutes, they are very much at the centre of research and teaching activity of two departments located within the Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management. That is why, they are described here in more details.

Department of Urban Geography and Spatial Organization

First of them is the Department of Urban Geography and Spatial Organization, directed by prof. Andrzej Lisowski. The research carried out by the Department focuses on current problems in Polish cities: the changes of urbanization processes in Poland, urban economic changes in services and manufacturing, urban service networks, social transformation in urban areas, urban quality of life and urban promotion, transformation of spatial structure of large and middle-sized towns, urban governance, spatial management and development in Warsaw metropolitan area, integrated urban management in large cities.

The current main research areas include:

- Transformation of social structure in urban areas under economic changes
- Cooperation of local governments and development in Warsaw metropolitan area
- Creation and functioning of service networks in urban centres
- Elements of integrated management in former first-order administrative centers
- Warsaw image – local government promotion versus social awareness
- The mechanisms of urban sprawl in Warsaw suburban zone

- Modernization of high-rise apartments blocks.

In the domains of research and teaching, the Department collaborates with other university units in Poland and abroad (Praha, Berlin) as well as the local (City Board of Plock) and regional planning units (Mazowsze Region Office of Spatial Management and Regional Development).

Department of Tourism and Geography of Recreation

The staff of the department includes one professor (Andrzej Kowalczyk - a head of the department), three researchers with Ph.D. degrees and three younger research assistants. The research activities in the department are focused on four major areas: (1) urban cultural tourism (especially the role of tourism and recreation in urban regeneration and revalorization processes), (2) rural tourism and second homes, (3) the role of tourism and recreation in local and regional development, (4) hotel industry (the hotel industry as a tool for spatial transformations of urban areas). The department has permanent research cooperation with colleagues from Czech Republic (Charles University in Prague) and Slovakia (Komensky University in Bratislava).

Department of Local Development and Policy

Research activity

The third one is the **Department of Local Development and Policy,** directed by prof. Pawel Swianiewicz. It is a small but dynamic research and teaching centre conducting interdisciplinary studies on:

- Regional and local development, in particular:
  - Factors influencing local economic development and development policies;
  - investment attractiveness;
  - Absorption of EU funds and their impact on the promotion of local and regional development;
- Local and regional politics and policy making processes

Currently the team of the Department consists of seven researchers and academic teachers (including three Ph.d. students). During the years 2005 and 2006 the staff of the Department participated in nine research projects, including two projects financed by EU Commission within the 6th Framework Programme. The most important research projects concerning cities which are run by the Department of in which staff of the Department is involved, are:

- Participation, Leadership and Urban Sustainability (PLUS) implemented in 2002-2004 within the EU 5th Research Framework;
- G-FORS – Governance for Sustainability implemented in 2006-2008 within the Eu 6th Research Framework. On the empirical level G-FORS concentrates on cases related to the implementation of EU directives concerning air pollution and environment planning in a multi-level governance context.
- SOCCOH – The Challenge of Socio-Economic Cohesion in the Enlarged European Union implemented in 2006-2007 within the EU 6th Research Framework. Within the project, in Poland we investigate the implementation of Structural Funds 2004-2006 in Dolnoslaski Region (South-Western Poland) trying to investigate patterns of interaction between the level of social capital and implementation of EU regional policies through the absorption of structural funds.
- Comparative Local Politics and Community Development: Strategies to Transform Poor Urban Neighbourhoods - an international research project, a cross-national study of efforts made in order to transform poor urban neighbourhoods. The project includes case studies of cities in eight European countries and in the United States.
- International Metropolitan Observatory. The project covers more than a dozen countries. It tries to analyze patterns of development in metropolitan areas, the political ecology of metropolis and the patterns of metropolitan governance.
- Local Political Leaders in Europe – an international research project implemented from 2002 to 2006, included a survey of mayors of cities with over 10,000 residents (in Poland we collected over 250 responses).
- Passiveness of Local Governments as a Factor Strengthening Regional Disparities in Poland. A project financed by the Polish Ministry for Academic Research. The project's main goal is to identify the causes of local governments' passivity concerning the absorption of external funds, especially funds from the European Union programmes
- Innovation in local governments of Warmia and Mazury Region in competition for external investments. A project implemented in partnership with Warmia and Mazury Agency for Regional Development

In May 2006 we organized the Bi-Annual Conference of European Urban Research Association (EURA) "Cities in City Regions" in Warsaw. The Conference gathered over 120 participants from 26 countries. Since January 2005 Pawel Swianiewicz, Head of the Department, has been the Chair of EURA Executive Board. Pawel Swianiewicz is also a member of the Steering Committee for the Local Government Initiative (LGI) of the Open Society Institute in Budapest.

We are authors of numerous expert reports prepared for the Polish government, regional and local authorities, as well as international organizations such as The World Bank, Council of Europe, Open Society Institute, and British Department for International development (DFID).

Teaching activity

The Department of Local Development and Policy coordinates a two-year master programme on "Strategic planning of regional and local development". Currently there are around 50 students enrolled on the programme.

The courses are divided into four thematic groups:

- Planning regional and local development;
- Local governments as political institutions and subjects of development policies;
- Spatial (physical) planning;
- Sustainable development and environment in planning of local development.

The programme concentrates on Poland but a lot of attention is paid also to the European context, which influences the process of local and regional development. The programme prepares students to work in:

- Government institutions dealing with regional and local development;
- Local government administration;
- Public and private institutions dealing with European Union funds for regional development.

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The CINEFOGO Network of Excellence

In each issue we feature a network. On this page we look at CINEFOGO (http://www.cinefogo.org)

The Network on Civil Society and New Forms of Governance in Europe – the Making of European Citizenship aims at enhancing the understanding of social and democratic processes, citizenship and democratic participation in Europe.

It seeks to:

- Provide knowledge about civil society, citizenship and social protection
- Nourish a public debate on governance
- Strengthen intellectual co-operation

Through research, learning and dialogue, focus is placed on:

- Active citizenship: to promote citizens' involvement and social participation in policy-making.
- Organised civil society: to understand the impact of different forms of citizenship and civic participation.
- Multiple identities: to identify factors that help co-existence among (dwellers of) multiple identities in Europe.

The CINEFOGO Network of Excellence is supported by the Sixth Framework Programme, Priority 7: New Forms of Citizenship and Cultural Identities of the European Union.

More than 35 institutions and 150 researchers across Europe are part of the Network that is co-ordinated by the University of Roskilde (Denmark).

If you would like more information on CINEFOGO, please go to our website www.cinefogo.org or contact us on secretariat@cinefogo.org

CINEFOGO
CIVIL SOCIETY AND NEW FORMS OF GOVERNANCE IN EUROPE

EURA Award for Junior Urban Researchers

In co-operation with the Junior Network for International Urban Studies (JUNIUS), EURA is announcing a competition for junior research scholars working on urban issues.

- The competition is open for students, ph.d. candidates or persons who obtained a ph.d. degree not earlier than in 2006 and who are under 35 years old on 1st March 2007.
- Interested scholars should send their research papers in electronic version to: Julie Triggle at: Julie.Triggle@uwe.ac.uk, and Pawel Swianiewicz at: pswian@uw.edu.pl before 1 March 2007.
- One person can submit only one paper.
- Papers should be submitted in English.
- Papers should be 5,000-9,000 words long and should refer to original empirical research conducted by the applicant.
- Papers may represent urban studies of different disciplines, such as planning, political science, urban sociology, urban geography, economics etc.
- Papers will be assessed by the jury nominated by EURA Board.

Prizes to be awarded include:

- Presentation at one of the sessions at the 10th EURA Anniversary Conference in Glasgow, 12-14 September 2007.
- Publication of paper in EURA journal "Urban Policy and Practice"
- Publication of summary of the paper (about 1,500-2,500 words) in EURA Newsletter
- Letter of appreciation sent to the authors of awarded paper and published on EURA web-site and in EURA Newsletter.

Your views

We would welcome your views and reactions on any aspect of this newsletter. If you have any material for inclusion in the next issue the copy deadline is **1st March 2007.**

Please send your material to Laurence Carmichael
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