

Editorial

This year our Spring Newsletter reaches you just before the summer vacation. Together with wishes of good rest I want to announce some good news from our organization, which I am sure will help you to go on holidays in a good mood.

In the previous EURA Newsletters we were announcing our plans for the EURA Journal "Urban Research and Practice". What a pleasure it is to announce that the first issue has been published and the next ones are already in preparation. Once again, many thanks to Rob Atkinson for his work on the project. And now development and reputation of the journal is very much in our hands – it depends on our ability to submit good quality materials and to publicize the journal. Please, feel encouraged and come back from your vacation with good texts (or at least with an idea of good papers).

As you all know the idea of EURA was born and grown up in Bristol, where our office is still located. We are and we will always be grateful to UWE for hosting us for so many years of EURA childhood. But we think that it is a time to consider leaving the Bristol base and to introduce a rotating system for the EURA secretariat to be hosted by different institutional members. The formal decision has not been made yet, but after a discussion we have had among EURA board members, the Darmstadt Technical University seems to be the most probable option for next few years. The change would be effective by January 1, 2009, and all EURA members will be of course notified about practical consequences of the change.

We will have an occasion to discuss all these issues when we meet in October in Milano (see information inside). We plan our next conferences

in Madrid in June 2009 (on a conference organized jointly with UAA) and in 2010 in Darmstadt. Please, mark these events in your calendars. It will be my pleasure to see you all again.

Pawel Swianiewicz
EURA President

Editorial Team

Prof Rob Atkinson
Dr Laurence Carmichael
Julie Trigg

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

48th CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION - CULTURE, COHESION AND COMPETITIVENESS: REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

27-31 August 2008, Liverpool, UK

The overarching theme for the Congress will be Culture, Cohesion and Competitiveness – Regional Perspectives. This encapsulates a number of different aspects that are topical and relevant not only for Liverpool but also across the whole of Europe.

The programme will be organised around a variety of topics and include plenary sessions with lectures by distinguished keynote speakers, including Professor Ed Glaeser (Harvard). A number of topics will reflect the central theme but as usual there will provision for other topics. There will also be young scientist's sessions.

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EURA CONFERENCE: LEARNING CITIES IN A KNOWLEDGE-BASED SOCIETY

9-11 October 2008, Milan, Italy

EURA EVENT

European cities are engaged in difficult and challenging processes of social, economical, institutional and territorial change. Contemporary cities can be considered as learning places under different points of view: as central nodes of a knowledge based economy, where concentration and exchange of information and innovation generated by people and firms produce new forms of economy, welfare and richness, but also new forms of poverty and exclusion. as social laboratories, places which exposes continuously their citizens to the effects of social transformation: laboratories in which the notion of citizenship is questioned and people have to learn to deal with change and the multiplication of differences generated by a mobile, multicultural society as settings for institutional and political innovation: where major transformations compel

institutions to face with new emerging problems of contemporary society and to develop new learning skills and experience new forms of governance, leadership, democracy, policies and politics.

The conference will focus its attention on the exploration of these major challenges and will foster a lively exchange and debate among researchers in the field of urban studies, particularly pointing at interactions among forms of knowledge and forms of urban governance.

For further details:

E-mail: euraconference2008@polimi.it

www.eura2008.polimi.it

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS AS A TOOL FOR DESCRIPTION AND DECREASING OF REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN QUALITY OF PEOPLE'S LIFE

17-19 September 2008, Prague, Czech Republic

The NGO Civitas per Populi in the co-operation with NGO TIMUR (Team Initiative for Local Sustainability) and Technical University Brno, Faculty of Architecture would like to invite all colleagues from academic, NGO's and municipal or regional governmental bodies round the Europe to working seminary focus on sustainable development indicators on the local and regional level.

The working seminary is based on the idea that sustainable development is in the foreground of the interest of the skilled and laic public for a couple of years. For the measurement the drifts to the sustainable development are used the indexes or the indicators. The most known is the "GDP per capita" which is the just measuring the economic situation and its use for the smaller areas especially for the local levels is very problematic, like practically impossible. It has been created the indicator sets of the sustainable development, which has the goal to map the results of our activities in the areas of the drifts to the sustainable development. We think, that for this watching and next solution of the regional disparity is necessary to implement the system of the watching the development and productivity (not only economic) of each area, which will be syntactic not only in its each areas – economic, environment and social, but would be syntactic in the hierarchy also – it means from the local to the regional up to state level.

There are different experiences and different approaches round Europe. By our opinion the experience exchange will be useful as well as the possibility to co-operate and open the possibility to create real working "Common European Set" of sustainable indicators on the local and regional level. The working seminary should kick off meetings for further

co-operation, experience exchange and common projects creation.

Abstracts

Abstracts are invited by 30th June 2008. Abstracts should contain the title, author, the author's organization, e-mail contact, 5 key words. The length of abstract is 200 – 400 words. The abstract must be sent by e-mail to: civitasperpopuli@volny.cz. All abstracts will be refereed prior to acceptance.

Registration fees – participation at the working seminar is free

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NORDIC URBAN AND HOUSING RESEARCH SEMINAR (NSBB): TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY IN URBAN TRANSFORMATION, GOVERNANCE CULTURES AND HOUSING POLICIES

21-23 September 2008, Hanasaari, Espoo, Finland

The NSBB network (Nordisk samarbeidsgruppe for by og boligforskning) was established in 1997. Its main activity is to hold annual Nordic seminars in urban and housing research, each Nordic country having a turn as a host.

With the theme “Urban Transformation, Governance Cultures and Housing Policies”, the seminar will tackle contemporary challenges to urban and housing research especially in the Nordic countries. The effort is to bring together research on socio-economic and physico-structural aspects of urban and regional transformation with research on changing urban governance cultures – drawing further implications to housing policy and planning.

The seminar is arranged by YTK – Centre for Urban and Regional Studies / Helsinki University of Technology

For further details:

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Seminar website :<http://www.tkk.fi/Units/Separate/YTK/research/NSBB/index.html>

ESF-LIU CONFERENCE – THE RIGHT TO THE CITY: NEW CHALLENGES, NEW ISSUES

11-15 October 2008, Klosterhotel, Vadstena, Sweden

As it has been largely documented, modern states are facing political rescaling processes in which the roles and functions of the different levels of government are evolving. Thus city-regions are becoming central economic and political territories in which a new division of labour is occurring between the states and the local authorities. This tendency has been particularly analysed by the economic literature but also by geography, sociology and political science. At the same time, there is a large literature on the general tendency towards the pluralization of urban decision systems in different institutional, cultural, political and economic contexts. To say it briefly, these processes (i.e. political rescaling and participative democracy at local level) generate a new “right to the city”: the capacity to influence the agendas of urban public institutions by using “appropriate” demands based on the formulation of rights recognized as legitimate by urban institutions. The on-going process of the constitution of an “urban citizenship” involves a set of social demands which are, by definition, contradictory in that sense that the “right to the city” must be linked to the social groups and classes using it in order to organize themselves, to generate collective identity and collective action. The work program of the Conference addresses a number of empirical subjects, all vectors of a “right to the city”. Its objective is to compare the effects of these dynamics on the content of urban policies and on the transformation of citizenship regimes.

Some grants are available for young researchers to cover the conference fee and travel costs.

For further details:

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ARTS, CULTURE AND PUBLIC SPHERE: EXPRESSIVE AND INSTRUMENTAL VALUES IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

4-8 November 2008, Venice, Italy

The Faculty of Design and Art (FDA), in cooperation with the Department of Art and Industrial Design (DADI) and the Centre EPOCA from the IUAV University - Venice, The Research Networks Sociology of Arts and Sociology of Culture of the European Sociological Association (ESA) are pleased to announce ‘Arts, Culture and Public Sphere: Expressive and Instrumental Values in Economic and Sociological Perspectives’

The conference aims to investigate the role of arts and culture in the social, economic and build environmental dimensions of contemporary societies.

The conference also represents the 5th ESA Sociology of the Arts Research Network mid-term conference and the 2nd ESA Sociology of Culture Research Network mid-term conference, and it will be the first opportunity to have three European networks – the two ESA-Research Networks and the network ‘Economics and Planning of Arts and Culture’ meeting around a common theme in Venice from 4 to 8 November 2008.

Arts and culture can no longer be considered uncritically as vehicles merely related to a ‘civilizing mission’ or to ‘economic development’. In the beginning, Social Sciences and Economic Studies identified the social context of the realm of art and culture, measured their impact and evaluated their management. Later, processes of expanding democratization exposed these realms to the criticism of the public sphere. Consequently, arts and culture became contended terrains involving multiple social and economic aspects.

Beneath the increasing examination of these realms, rests the growing international and trans-national circulation of people, capital, and culture, different forces that have inspired individuals and groups to challenge well-established authorities, mentalities and semantic codes and socio-economic development models. These processes turned the artistic and cultural fields in a lively crossroads for trans-disciplinary research, spanning areas of inquiry once viewed as unrelated.

Following the main theme of the conference, we will investigate how arts and culture became contest grounds involving multiple social and economic dimensions of contemporary societies.

For further details:

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**ADVANCE NOTICE OF JOINT EURA/UAA
EVENT – MADRID 2009**

EURA EVENT

**AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
GLOBALISM AND URBAN CHANGE: CITY
FUTURES IN A GLOBALISING WORLD**

4-6 June 2009, Madrid, Spain

The European Urban Research Association (EURA) and the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) will hold their second Joint Conference on City Futures in Madrid. We extend an invitation to colleagues from Europe, North America and from across the world to join us in a major forward looking conference examining the future of cities.

For further details: see page 11 of the newsletter

**5TH URBAN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM - CITIES
AND CLIMATE CHANGE: RESPONDING TO AN
URGENT AGENDA**

28-30 June 2009, Marseille, France

Cities and Climate Change: Responding to an Urgent Agenda has been selected as the focal topic for the 5th Urban Research Symposium to be held in Marseille, France from June 28-30, 2009. The Symposium is being organized by the World Bank in conjunction with some key partners.

The Symposium will feature presentations of five commissioned survey papers on each of the research clusters, commissioned research on specific topics of interest to the World Bank and its partners (dependant on funding), and an open call for papers. The overall objectives of these papers are:

- (1) To examine the current applied urban research and practices on cities and climate change, in developing and transition economies as well as developed countries.
- (2) To identify knowledge gaps in current research; and
- (3) To contribute to a focused urban research agenda to guide collaborative efforts in this area.

The Symposium is aimed at presenting current and steering future research on topics that address city-specific questions by taking into account the complexity of urban systems. The research questions under each cluster should be approached in an inter-disciplinary manner to include: (a) Climate change science, that is the expected changes in temperature, precipitation and the incidence of extreme events, downscaling climate scenarios, impact of cities emissions on GHG and the impact of climate change on cities; (b) Social and economic impacts of climate change, that is the interactions between urban expansion, vulnerability and resilience to climate change, including urban forms and sprawl, impact on public health, urban poverty, and human settlements; and (c) Urban policies and practices, that is land use and planning, housing policies, building codes, transportation policies, participation, and governance.

Papers on each of the five clusters will include contributions on (a) diagnosis of specific issues and their components; (b) analysis and approaches; (c) experiences and concrete cases of current policies and practices in cities and the reasons for success; (d) extracting lessons, analyzing conditions for scaling-up, and creating action plans to deal with climate change-related issues. It is expected that the lessons associated with each cluster will provide the basis for a multi-donor coordination/effort to deal systematically with cities and climate change and to mainstream these concerns in their national and regional assistance strategies.

Researchers are encouraged to look at cities and urban areas as integrated systems and to mention how their proposals, while focused on a given cluster, would interact with themes in other clusters. Please refer to the Concept Note of the 5th Urban Research Symposium (available at www.urs2009.net) for further background.

For further details:

E-mail: urbansymposium@worldbank.org

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Past conferences

BIOFUEL END-USERS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE DISCUSS CHALLENGES

20 December 2007, Freiburg

In the second of a series of workshops for biofuel end-users, from, the Biofuel Cities European Partnership brought together 35 stakeholders from Central and Eastern Europe in Sofia, Bulgaria. On the agenda was a discussion of the biofuels for transport sector and a reflection on the challenges facing biofuel end-users in the region, such as overly bureaucratic procedures, lack of institutional support and security of feedstock supply.

Kicking off the workshop were two regional success stories with very different backgrounds. A Czech case study examined the interconnection between agri-industrial feedstock production and end-use, while a Romanian case focused on the use of alternative fuels in the public transport sector. Having been provided with plenty of food for thought, the participants then discussed the challenges and opportunities facing Southern, Central and Eastern European biofuel end-users.

Featuring highly were a number of politically oriented challenges, such as extremely high levels of bureaucracy - many official procedures relating to use of biofuels require simplification. Also mentioned was a perceived lack of political will to develop the sector, despite the European Commission's focus on the 2010 10% volume target. Participants identified potential solutions to this as the development of cross-sectoral think tanks and the proliferation of regional good examples from which beginners in the sector could learn. All present concurred that platforms such as the Biofuel Cities European Partnership are instrumental in communicating key issues and informing legislators and other politicians.

The fact that institutional support is not readily available poses particular challenges. Uncertainty exists on whether new institutions will be created or if existing ones will be expanded upon. This impacts concretely on the issue of quality control, which is also related to the issue of standardisation.

Concerns of a technical nature were voiced regarding the questionable availability of vehicles able to run on transport biofuels. Also the lack of local standardisation for fuel and vehicle engine conversions was cited as a challenge.

As regards the supply of feedstocks, participants concluded that, whenever possible, they should be sourced from the locality. Questions were raised about the development of sustainability criteria, however, as this issue is still being hotly debated in Brussels, no concrete solutions or proposals could be formulated.

End-user workshops provide a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to embark upon a frank exchange of views and make reflections on their situation and potential solutions. The outcome of the workshop was a list of considerations

to be taken into account by the biofuels sector. Full details can be obtained in the CEE biofuels end-user workshop report that will be published online in early 2008.

For further details:

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FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

4-7 January 2008, University of Malaysia, Terengganu, Malaysia

The Fourth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability and the corresponding International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability (www.Sustainability-Journal.com) provide a forum for discussion of the connections between environment, culture, economy and society. They are a meeting point for natural and social scientists, researchers and practitioners, professionals and community representatives.

This year's Sustainability Conference was held in collaboration with the University of Malaysia, Terengganu (UMT). The opening session was attended by many of the important members of the university, including the Vice Chancellor, Dato' Dr. Sulaiman Md. Yassin. The Conference featured plenary sessions by some of the world's leading thinkers and innovators in the field, as well as numerous parallel presentations by researchers and practitioners. Main speakers included Professor Dato' Dr. Sulaiman Md. Yassin, Vice Chancellor at the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu; Chamhuri Siwar, Professor and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM); Dennis Ramdahin, a career environmentalist focused in the area of environmental management and sustainability planning; and Khalid M. Nor, consultant.

The perspectives presented ranged from big picture analyses which addressed global and universal concerns, to detailed case studies which spoke of localised applications of the principles and practices of sustainability. Conference presentations and published papers traversed a broad terrain, sometimes technically and other times socially oriented, sometimes theoretical and other times practical in their perspective, and sometimes reflecting dispassionate analysis whilst at other times suggesting interested strategies for action.

For further details:

www.Sustainability-Conference.com

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 to Julie.Triggle@uwe.ac.uk

CIVITAS PER POPULI have published a new book which focuses on theoretical approaches and experience with European Common Indicator's set in the Czech Republic and on a key study in the city of Hradec Králové.



Sustainable Development Indicators. Theoretical Approaches and Experience in the Czech Republic. Hradec Králové Key Study

Vladimíra _ilhánková (ed.)
Civitas per Populi, 2007

The issue of (permanently) sustainable development has been mentioned and discussed more and more in this decade. An ever growing number of institutions, governmental agencies and local authorities profess these principles. However, not that many of these try to introduce/ implement them into a real life situation. A number of these institutions, namely local authorities would like to implement the principles of sustainable development, but the existing options, methodologies and approaches are often far too theoretical and fragmented thus making the practical implementation very difficult (mainly in smaller municipalities). Therefore our objective and subsequently the objective of this brochure, which was produced within the project of the Sustainable Development Indicators as a Tool for Monitoring and Decreasing Disparities in the Population Level of Individual Regions supported from the programme of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic aimed at research and development under the title of "Research for Regional Disparity Solution", is to support the options of the implementation of the sustainable development principles on a local level. Since there is a quite integrated and stabilised methodology for introducing the sustainable development principles in the planning processes in the form of the Local Agenda 21, we endeavour to create a tool for monitoring the progress of the Local Agenda 21 or more precisely a Tool for

Monitoring any Planning Processes on a Local Level. Creating a mutually interconnected system of monitoring the sustainable development indicators, employable at a local, micro-regional and regional level for monitoring disparities in the regional development. The submitted brochure is the first interim result of our efforts where we have tried to map out the "good practice" and demonstrate with a study case both the possibilities of the actual indicator monitoring and mutual indicator co-ordination and interconnection with planning procedures and documents of the municipality. Obviously, even in this described study case everything is not as it ideally could be, but in our opinion it is a very inspirational example and in many aspects "well worth following".

The publication is available at:
www.civitasperpopuli.org and www.timur.cz

or e-mail: civitasperpopuli@volny.cz

This publication was produced within the research for the Ministry for Regional Development in relation to the research project WD- 69-07-4 Sustainable Development Indicators as a Tool for Monitoring Disparities and thanks to the financial support of the Municipality of Hradec Králové.

INSTITUTE FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION RESEARCH (IVAR) RESEARCH REPORTS

Two new research reports from IVAR concerning third sector organisations and their links to public authorities in disadvantaged communities the UK are now available.

1. 'Exploring the advocacy role of community anchor organisations: Final report – February 2008'

A research report by IVAR (Institute for Voluntary Action Research), London which was prepared for bassac, a national umbrella association supporting a network of independent community based organisations seeking to tackle the causes and effects of poverty, exclusion and discrimination.

The full report is available at:
<http://www.bassac.org.uk/pages/voice.html>

The Study examined the advocacy role of multi-purpose community organisations, more recently termed 'community anchors' in England. The research had one principal aim: 'To describe, develop and implement models for community anchors to exercise and facilitate advocacy with and on behalf of other community organisations and the wider community'. There has been much recent policy interest in these organisations and the advocacy role. The research findings highlight the fact that despite this substantial government interest there are many conceptual and practical difficulties around the implementation of the

'advocacy' role. There is also some confusion over the myriad of different terms used to describe the role, amongst academics, practitioners and policy makers.

2. 'Servants of the Community or Agents of Government?'

A study on the role of community-based organisations and their contribution to public services delivery and civil renewal in the UK.

The executive summary is available under the Action Research projects on the IVAR site:

http://www.ivar.org.uk/Action_research/projects.shtml

The Study had one principal aim: to understand and explore the role of community-based organisations and their contribution to public services delivery and civil renewal. The findings are drawn from community organisations and eight statutory funders and cover issues such as: the external policy changes affecting the organisations, the funding situation and the impact these changes in the policy and funding environment are having, the experience of managing and responding to change.

Dr Mike Aiken
Research Officer

Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR)

GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY (G-FORS) CASE STUDY REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE ON- LINE:

Governance for Sustainability (G-FORS), a three year research project that brings together EURA members started in February 2006. The project funded by The EU Commission's Research Framework Programme 6 priority 7 (Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society - The Implications of European Integration and Enlargement for Governance and the Citizen) brings together the Metropolregion of Hannover, EUROCITIES as well as ten universities and research institutes. They are: University of the West of England, Bristol, Darmstadt University of Technology, University of Warsaw, University of Twente, Politecnico di Milano, University of Gøteborg, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Panteion University, Centre for Regional Studies of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the Erkner (Germany) based Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning.

The empirical stage of the project has come to an end and national teams have delivered their case study reports which will serve as basis for the comparative analysis. You can find the national case study reports as well as other publications from the project on:

<http://g-fors.eu>

TWO REPORTS FROM THE NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL RESEARCH (NIBR)

1. Municipal International Co-operation: Kristiansand (Norway) and Walvis Bay (Namibia) NIBR Report 2008:6

With developmental aid Municipal International Co-operation (MIC) gradually has been refined into an instrument for exchange of experiences and skills within purely municipal fields of work. Earlier MIC resembled people-to-people co-operation. The Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) has evaluated the MIC between Walvisbaai in Namibia and the Norwegian town of Kristiansand for the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities.

The evaluation found that it has been difficult to achieve a purely municipal focus within the co-operation. Moreover, there is a conflict between the similarity and equality on which the MIC philosophy is based on the one hand, and the difference and asymmetry that actually prevails in North-South relations on the other. Among others, there is relatively little evidence of what the municipality of Kristiansand has gained from the MIC.

2. Governance for Sustainability (G-FORS) Norway National Report NIBR Report 2008:9

The G-FORS project has developed an innovative analytical model for the study of governance for sustainability, focusing on the synergy between governance modes and different forms of knowledge, taking into account the rapid changes in the knowledge society. The analysis is based on case studies in nine countries. See above section for more details.

G-FORS is funded by the EU Sixth Framework Programme.

To order the reports:

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EURA Conference

'Learning cities in a Knowledge-Based Society'
9th-11th October 2008, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Call for Papers

The call for papers is now closed. The process of evaluation has started and the track chairs are now selecting the abstract received within 29th of February. As a whole, almost 200 abstracts have been submitted.

25% have been submitted to track 1 EMERGING SPATIAL PLANNING PRACTICES (Track chairs: Liliana Padovani, Carolina Pacchi). Another 25% have been submitted to track 2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN CHANGE (Track chairs: Roberto Camagni, Gabriele Pasqui). More than 30% have been submitted to track 3 LEARNING THROUGH GOVERNANCE (Track chairs: Pierluigi Crosta, Valeria Fedeli). Then 20% have been submitted to track 4 INTEGRATION AND COHESION IN KNOWLEDGE-BASED URBAN SOCIETIES (Track chairs: Serena Vicari, Antonio Tosi).

Keynote Speakers

In the meantime the coordination team is getting further in the organization of the program: they have selected some of the keynote speakers, some of which have already confirmed their presence.

Invited speakers:

Prof Ash Amin, prof. Guido Martinotti, prof. Bruno Dente, Ms Lucy De Groot, Mr Pezzini.

Prof. Ash Amin, Professor of Geography University of Durham (UK), is a leading scholar in the field of research in the challenges of urban and regional economic development in the context of structural change and international economic integration. He is author, with Nigel Thrift, of "Cities – reimagining the Urban", 2002, Blackwell, one of the leading books in the last ten years.

Prof. Bruno Dente, Professor at the Politecnico di Milano, is a leading scholar in the field of policy research on the study of institutions and the analysis and design of public policies in Italy. He is particularly characterized by a strong commitment in applied research and field experimentation. He was editor of *Le politiche pubbliche in Italia*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1990, one of the leading handbook in the public policies field in Italy.

Prof. Guido Martinotti, Professor at the University Milano-Bicocca, is a leading scholar in Urban Sociology. He was among the first in Italy to focus on processes of social change in metropolitan contexts and his book, "Metropoli. La nuova morfologia sociale della città", Il Mulino, Bologna, (1993) has been a central one in the Italian reflection.

Ms Lucy De Groot, has been Executive Director of the IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency for local government) since September 2003. She was previously Director of Public Services in HM Treasury for three and a half years, responsible for major areas of public expenditure, as well as the delivery of public service agreements and a range of strategic policies including the Voluntary Sector and Every Child Matters. The IDeA is owned by the Local Government Association of UK and belongs to local government. They work in close partnership with the following organisations to support and promote better local government: 4ps, local government's project delivery specialist; Local Authority Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) and Local Government Employers (LGE), who represent local government as an employer.

Mario Pezzini, joined OECD in 1995 as Principal Administrator in charge of the work on Distressed Urban Areas. From 1996 to 1999 he was the Head of the OECD Rural Development Programme and from 1999 to 2007 the Head of the Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division. Before joining the OECD he was Professor in Industrial Economics at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris as well as in US and Italian Universities. On several occasions Mr. Pezzini has been economic advisor for international organisations and think tanks in the field of economic development, industrial organisation and regional economics, with a particular focus on policies for clusters and networks of small and medium sized firms as well as on policies to valorise natural and cultural resources. A member of several governmental advisory boards, Mr. Pezzini was also manager in the Regional Government of the Emilia-Romagna Region in Italy.

Study Tours

The coordination team is organizing some study tours in order to get participants in touch with major urban transformation in the city. Study tours will give participants an opportunity to see and hear, in contrasting locations, about the different aspects of Milan and its surroundings areas transformations, through tradition and change:

- the historic city and its main cultural sites (visiting the Teatro alla Scala and the Museums circuit focussing on cultural policies in the city),
- the peripheral city (exploring deprived neighborhoods as Ponte Lambro and Molise Calvairate, in order to get in touch with social problems and at the same time cases of are-designed policies of urban renewal),

- the rural landscape and the pressures of transformations (visiting by tramway the South Milan, a place of persisting environmental value, where new important transformation are occurring),
- the University of Bicocca (that stands on a former industrial site of the Pirelli tyre company and which is trying to develop as a new urban neighbourhood),
- the business city (a tour touching the old Trade fair in the city, the new trade Fair in the area that formerly hosted the Agip refinery in Rho Pero and the new site for The EXPO 2015)
- the ethnic city (Chinatown: via Bramante, via Paolo Sarpi, one of the biggest Chinatown in Italy)

Registration and Accommodation

Registration will be open on the website after 15 May 2008, date in which information about paper acceptance will be sent to authors. The website will provide a link to another website offering accommodations in relation to the Conference and general info about the city.

Events

The Conference will host an exhibition on the Progetto Strategico CITTA' DI CITTA', promoted by the Province of Milan, which will also sponsor a social event during the conference.

Provisional Programme

9 October		
0900 – 1130		Registration
1130 – 1300		Opening session with key-note speakers
1300 – 1400		Lunch
1400 – 1515		Parallel sessions
1515 – 1545		Coffee break
1545 – 1730		Parallel sessions
1930 –		Social event: drink
10 October		
0900 – 1045		Parallel sessions
1045 – 1115		Coffee break
1115 – 1300		Parallel sessions
1300 – 1400		Lunch
1400 – 1515		Parallel sessions
1515 – 2000		Study tours
2000 –		Social dinner
11 October		
0900 – 1045		Parallel sessions
1045 – 1115		Coffee break
1115 – 1300		Parallel sessions
1300 – 1400		Lunch
1400 – 1530		Closing session

For further details:

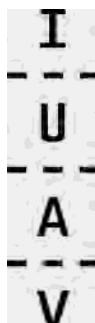
Website: www.eura2008.polimi.it

E-mail: euraconference2008@polimi.it



**POLITECNICO
DI MILANO**

Piazza Leonardo da Vinci, 32
20133 Milano



2nd Joint EURA/UAA Conference

'City Futures in a Globalising World'
4th - 6th June 2009, Madrid, Spain

An international conference on globalism and urban change

Call for Papers

City Futures in a Globalising World. The European Urban Research Association (EURA) and the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) will hold their second Joint Conference on City Futures in Madrid. We extend an invitation to colleagues from Europe, North America and from across the world to join us in a major forward looking conference examining the future of cities.



Background-the City Futures Joint Conference, Chicago

The Madrid conference will build on and take forward the international dialogue that started at the first City Futures Joint Conference held in Chicago in July 2004. Hosted by the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and attended by over 250 participants from 36 countries, our first Joint Conference was intensely international.

Full details:

www.uic.edu/cuppa/cityfutures

Aims of City Futures in a Globalising World

The central aim of the Madrid Conference in 2009 is to lift the quality of international dialogue about urban issues by:

- Creating a whole conference sharply focussed on international exchange
- Engaging different disciplinary perspectives and approaches
- Welcoming papers that address policy concerns – local, regional, national and international - that speak to the impact of policy on the ground

Conference Themes

This conference calls for papers relating to one or more of the following themes. We welcome scholars from diverse disciplines as well as practitioners.

- **Climate change, resource use, and urban adaptation**
How sustainable are modern cities? What policies are being introduced to tackle climate change?
- **Knowledge and technology in urban development**
How are cities harnessing knowledge and technology to increase the quality of life for their citizens? Whither local economic development in a rapidly changing world?

- **Community development, migration and integration in urban areas**
How are cities coping with rapid population movements – both into and out of cities? What are the implications for housing, urban regeneration and community building of international population shifts?
- **Urban governance and city planning in an international era**
Sound city governance and urban planning are critical to urban success. What are the implications of current trends for political and managerial leadership? How should cities position themselves internationally?
- **Architecture and the design of the public realm**
The quality of architecture and urban design affects the quality of life in cities. What innovations are taking place in urban design and planning at street level? Are cities redesigning themselves to cope with new challenges relating to, for example, public safety?

Madrid – world-class city

Madrid, the largest city in Southern Europe, with more than 3.1 million people (6.5 in the metropolitan area), is a vibrant, dynamic metropolis, with a dense cultural and social life. Madrid is today an important cultural, university, scientific and financial centre, and the main hub between Europe and Latin America.

The conference will take place in the Municipal Training Centre of Madrid City, a splendid building in the heart of the City (close to the Alonso Martinez Metro Station). Recently renovated this facility is purpose designed for international events.

Outline Programme

The conference will start at lunch time on 4 June and will finish at lunch time on 6 June.

Registration Fees

The registration fees for the conference will be announced at a later date.

Homepage

From May 2008 the Autonomous University of Madrid will operate a homepage that will be continuously updated: <http://www.uam.es/geografia/cityfutures09>

Contact e-mail

Cityfutures09@gmail.com

Conference Organisers

The conference is organised by the Department of Geography at the Autonomous University of Madrid with the support of colleagues at other universities in Madrid, the Mayor's Office of Madrid, and members of the European Urban Research Association (EURA) and the Urban Affairs Association (UAA).



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

Call for Scholars

The Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy Studies International Fellows Program in Urban Studies seeks qualified applicants for the 2008-2009 academic year. This fellowship provides an opportunity to conduct cross-national research focused on urban problems and policy alternatives. The program's benefits include a semester or academic year of reflection in one of the world's premier research universities, exposure to U.S. issues and approaches to urban problems, access to leading urban researchers at Johns Hopkins and throughout the U.S., and access to census, administrative and survey databases suitable for cross-national research. Successful candidates should have strong interests and a proven record of accomplishment in the urban policy field, the capability to conduct independent urban research, and a solid fluency in spoken and written English. The Compagnia di San Paolo and Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumsfond provide fellowships for meritorious Italian and Swedish applicants.

More detailed information, deadlines and application procedures may be obtained by visiting our website at <http://www.jhu.edu/ips>. Questions may be directed to Marsha R. B. Schachtel at mschacht@jhu.edu.

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITIONS 2008

The CNRS annual recruitment drive for Postdoctoral Research positions is designed to offer young researchers an opportunity to spend time either in CNRS Laboratories or those it runs with other organizations or higher educational institutions.

This recruitment drive offering post doctoral contracts is aimed at the most brilliant researchers, either from France or abroad to enable them to move from the laboratory where they did their Ph.D. to acquire additional high-level research experience. Thereby, enabling them to prepare uninterruptedly, and under good working conditions, for recruitment into a company or laboratory any where in the world. Young French Ph.D.s who having spent time abroad and want to return to France, can use the post doctoral positions as a way to become better known by their French colleagues, increasing their chances of obtaining permanent positions in France.

For further details:

Denis Salles
Tel: +33 6 072 788 43
Email: dsalles@univ-tlse2.fr
<https://www2.cnrs.fr/DRH/post-docs08/?pid=8&lang=en>

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE THINK PIECES

The Office of the Third Sector has asked five leading thinkers to set out their ideas on the future of social enterprise by preparing 'think pieces' on five different topics.

The think pieces, which focus on policy, were commissioned following the launch of the social enterprise action plan in November 2006, and published on the first anniversary of the action plan, on Social Enterprise Day 2007.

The papers are:

- Social enterprise and social innovation: strategies for the next ten years, by Charles Leadbeater
- What is the future of social enterprise in ethical markets?, by Dr Alex Nicholls
- Why measuring and communicating social value can help social enterprise become more competitive, by Jeremy Nicholls
- How can innovation in social enterprise be understood, encouraged and enabled?, by Andrea Westall
- What is the role of social enterprise in finding, creating and maintaining employment for disadvantaged groups?, by Dr Mike Aiken

The ideas set out in the papers are the authors' own, and do not represent Government policy on the issues. The think pieces aim to inform policy-making and the wider debate about social enterprise. They challenge thinking about the contribution social enterprises can make, and the Government's role in supporting them.

The papers can be downloaded at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/Research_and_statistics/social_enterprise_research/think_pieces.aspx



ÖREBRO UNIVERSITET
CENTRE FOR URBAN AND
REGIONAL STUDIES, CUREs

CENTRE FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES (CUREs) IN ÖREBRO – 24 PHD STUDENTS IN PROGRESS!

Associated to the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CUREs) at Örebro University, Sweden the Research School of Urban and Regional Studies started in October 2004 as a

PhD program offering multidisciplinary perspectives on the challenges facing cities and regions. As many as 24 students in History, Human Geography, Political Science, Social Work and Sociology currently work with their theses within the framework of the research school. Accordingly, in the coming years there will be a continuous output of 3-5 new Urban Studies PhDs each year, arguably bringing Urban and Regional Studies in Sweden closer to the international front line of this research field. In addition to the PhD students the CUREs staff comprises 15 senior researchers and teachers, many of these involved in externally funded research projects.

The research school formula is increasingly used at Swedish universities, although with an urban and regional focus only at Örebro University. The approach benefits the PhD students by giving them a broad knowledge basis through multidisciplinary PhD courses on urban and regional issues, and introducing them into a cross-disciplinary scientific community without losing their anchorage in a particular discipline.

Research at CUREs and the Research School largely revolves around three, partly overlapping overall themes focused upon cities and regions:

- Sustainability at the crossroads of society and nature
- Diversity and multiple identities in urban and regional transformations
- Multi-level governance, networks and democracy

Among the issues studied are:

- cities and regions facing climate change and other threats to the environment
- urban and regional planning discourses and place-making
- the conflictual relationship between public and private space
- public health in distressed neighbourhoods
- women entrepreneurs in stagnating regions
- security, crime and urban life
- gender, ethnicity, age and religion in politics and everyday life
- processes of segregation and attempts at integration in contested and divided cities

The urban and the regional are arenas where the problems and contradictions of our times are as most visible, and where people individually as well as collectively grapple with these challenges. Thus, common to much of our research is an ambition to examine and reflect upon the importance of gender, class, ethnicity, age, religion, place and space for urban and regional development. Participating in several international research networks our ambition is to give substantial contributions to the expanding field of urban and regional research.

Coordinator of CUREs and the Research School of Urban and Regional Studies is:

Ingemar Elander
Professor of Political Science
Örebro University
Email: ingemar.elander@sam.oru.se.

For more information: www.oru.se/fus (in Swedish) and www.oru.se/urs (in English).

For information regarding the activities and members of Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CUREs) see www.oru.se/cures

THE POTENTIAL OF THE UNOCCUPIED SPACE IN THE FORMATION AND PLANNING OF METROPOLITAN LISBON

The potential of the unoccupied space in the formation and planning of Metropolitan Lisbon is a research project under the scope of a bilateral agreement involving Universities in Portugal and Spain (2008-2009), and is being developed in the Urban and Spatial Planning Research Laboratory, Faculty of Architecture TU Lisbon (LUOTP-FA-UTL) and the Urban and Spatial Department in the School of Architecture, TU Catalonia (DUOT-ETSAB-UPC). The team, coordinated by Sofia Morgado and Angel Martin, includes several experts in urban planning - Clara Mendes, Carles Crosas, João Rafael Santos and Rita Dionísio - as well as a junior team from several MArch Programs within the university: Urban Planning - Cláudia Rocheteau, Fábio Espírito Santo, Paulo Lopes, Vasco Botas; Architecture - Carolina Hogan, Ana Beto, Emanuel Rebelo, Tiago Frazão and Landscape Architecture - Susana Rodrigues.

The project aims to develop both an analysis and a theoretical approach, considering that on contemporary urban development the role of the unoccupied space is becoming more relevant on the configuration of the metropolitan urban development. Several experts have already advised on this, nevertheless the epistemological identification of such spaces is still far from being complete.

This is an opportune moment to examine innovative ways of urbanistic interpretation and intervention, through new approaches to the creation of the urban space, in order to produce necessary advances in metropolitan development. It is argued that the unoccupied space is seen as a relevant agent that articulates the territorial and urban scales. This work proposes its own specific methodology that includes the preparation of original cartography, and the study of selected cases.

The previous interpretation of Lisbon metropolitan territory evolution has shown a territorial structure undergoing important transformations from its genesis into today's integration in a supra-metropolitan frame. To further develop this approach, the current research has set as main objectives:

- To deepen a theoretical model for interpretation (five temporal moments, approached from water, land and artificial creation framework);
- To detail the analysis of identified areas as fundamental by drawing up a conceptual model for urbanistic interpretation that can be applied to significant cases;
- To help define intervention guidelines that will establish the unoccupied space as a key factor in the urban project. This proposes a dynamic characterisation and structuring of urban spaces that emphasises the places' strongest identifiers;
- To help define future paths for research and action to cope with the growing need to develop specific techniques and instruments for structuring the metropolitan area and the urban project;
- To produce a new cartographical database using GIS techniques, usable as an analytical tool and as an urbanistic information archive.

The Lisbon metropolitan area was selected since it is structured around a large unoccupied space that is fundamental to its formation: the Tagus Estuary, which is a catalyst for essential situations that impact both on creating and conceptualizing the city. Three main areas for development have been considered:

- Analysis of specific areas structured from the basis of the Tagus Estuary – case study.
- Synthesis of an urbanistic theory for the metropolitan Lisbon based on the unoccupied space, maybe applicable to the field of European metropolis.

Sofia Morgado
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LUOTP- URBAN AND SPATIAL PLANNING RESEARCH LABORATORY FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE TU LISBON

The LUOTP- Urban and Spatial Planning Research Laboratory, a research unity of the Faculty of Architecture TU Lisbon initiated in 2006, is a multidisciplinary structure. The team includes senior and junior researchers, doctoral students, and maintains important interaction with other research centres, within the Faculty of Architecture and the TU Lisbon, but mostly with public institutions, private and public, national and international, with similar scientific and technological areas of interest.

The LUOTP stimulates the bond between theory and practice, having, nonetheless, a special vocation in what the study, evaluation, methodological and analytical approaches and diagnose applied to urban and territorial planning are concerned, also from the environmental, sociological and economical viewpoints.

Research areas include urban and environmental regeneration, regional management, spatial planning models

and governance, regional development, urban and rural landscapes' evolution and dynamics, as well as urban planning history and theory, gardens and urban parks.

This Research Laboratory also aims to support teaching, contributing to graduation and post graduation programs in urbanism, urban planning and landscape. Therefore, at this level, research is actively encouraged, either by supervising doctoral dissertations or by the permanent transfer of knowledge and technology to non-academicals' structures. Other activities include involvement in technical upgrading and the development of partnerships with national and international institutions and universities, regarding the improvement and the qualification of the territory. Ongoing research projects, also endorse the awareness to relevant issues regarding sustainability and social cohesion, under a permanent assessment of the obtained results.

At the LUOTP various projects, which are currently being developed, include research on the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon, with reference to spatial planning, urban policies and sustainability, on public space and thermal urbanism. At a different scale of urban analysis, the Plazas of Portugal research project already completed, and the Streets in Portuguese cities research project, still at the very beginning, are also being accomplished.

Simultaneously, support to community is being held through municipal urban regeneration projects (Urban Rehabilitation Society and International Network of Cities, promoted by the Municipality of Oeiras in a cooperation program with LUOTP).

Under the scope of international cooperation, with other universities and research institutions, various projects are being developed. Amongst others, the following projects can be referred: Arte Público y Diseño Urbano para todos / Public Art and Urban Design for all (Universidade de Barcelona, Polis Research Centre, Universidade de Zaragoza, Design for All Foundation et al.), Public Art Urban Design Observatory (Universidade de Barcelona, Polis Research Centre, Universidade de Zaragoza, Manchester Metropolitan University, Design for All Foundation et al.), The potential of the unoccupied space in the formation and planning of Metropolitan Lisbon (FA/UTL, ETSAB/UPC, Barcelona).

LUOTP is also cooperating with the FCT - Fundação para a Ciência e para a Tecnologia (Portuguese Foundation for Research and Technology) in URBAN-NET – Coordination of the funding of urban research in Europe project (Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research, Stichting Kenniscentrum Grottesteden Beleid; Projettträger Mobilitat und Verkehr Bauen und Wohnen; Ministère des Transports e l'Équipement du Tourisme et de la Mer; The Swedish Research Council for Environment.

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Institutional member

In this issue we profile In this issue we profile the Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest, Hungary

Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest

Since its establishment in 1989, Metropolitan Research Institute (MRI) has become a recognized institution working in the areas of housing market, urban development, local government finance and EU-related planning issues, both in Hungary and in other European countries. The Institute provides consultancy and research, organizes workshops, conferences and designs/provides training in its activity areas. Members of MRI are very active in teaching at universities at undergraduate and graduate levels. The Institute's personnel are recruited from a broad range of social sciences.

The "founding fathers" of MRI, József Hegedüs and Iván Tosics aimed from the beginning on to bring together a group of innovative researchers who like new challenges and love to discover uncharted territories. The interdisciplinary team of young fellows is able and willing to work on cross-sector issues, which fall outside the usual strictly sectoral approaches. Although it is a private company, most of MRI's clients are public sector organizations and the Institute is one of the leading think-tanks in Hungary and in Central and Eastern Europe in housing, urban development and local government financial analyses.

MRI plays an important role in the international research community. Our colleagues are involved in the Coordination Committee of the European Network for Housing Research and of EURA. MRI fellows contribute through editorial and advisory board positions to the work of many leading journals, such as Urban Research and Practice, Journal of Housing and the Built Environment, Housing Studies. MRI organized several large research conferences in housing and urban topics in Hungary. With all these activities MRI aims to improve the research links between the western and eastern parts of Europe.

Housing Policy

The Institute has studied various segments of the housing market, was involved in the development of housing allowances and implementation of roma programs, has carried out extensive research on housing finance systems and local real estate markets and has surveyed housing mobility. The company prepared the background study for the national housing strategy and contributed to the Council of Europe's documents on access of vulnerable groups to housing.

Urban Development

The Institute analyses the transformation and development processes taking place in and around large cities as well as the economic, environmental and social impacts of those processes. MRI prepares conceptual studies, such as the Long-term Urban Development Strategy for Budapest. MRI prepares also sectoral concepts, e.g. the baseline strategy for socially integrated urban renewal, and recently worked

on the first exploratory study on congestion charging in Budapest.

European Union and Regional Development

MRI researchers have produced impact assessments of the regional development system and made recommendations on further developments of institutional structures and the inter-governmental transfer system. MRI contributed to the development of the framework regulation for the Hungarian Regional Operational Programmes. MRI experts also, coordinated lobbying efforts for new member states to access Structural Funds and prepared feasibility studies of rehabilitation and transportation projects in order to obtain Structural Fund resources for a number of local governments

MRI participated in the USAID-sponsored technical assistance program targeted at modernizing local finances. The company produces impact assessments of a wide range of local governmental programs. The company develops programs for local government officers focusing on new budgeting techniques and citizen participation in the budgeting process.

Technical Assistance Programs

The company participates in technical assistance programs and organizes professional thematic study tours for experts and officials from other countries, including housing management, urban development, local economic development and strategic planning.

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Write about your research

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

Please e-mail your information to

Julie.Triggle@uwe.ac.uk

Urban Research and Practice

Journal of the European Urban Research Association (EURA)

To view the first issue for free visit
www.informaworld.com/RURP

where you can also find out more about the journal and sign up to receive table of contents alerts.
Editor: Professor Rob Atkinson, University of the West of England, UK



Urban Research & Practice, published in association with EURA (European Urban Research Association) will focus on 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; 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.

Articles in the first issue include:

The emerging Danish government reform - centralised decentralisation
Hans Thor Andersen

In search of a stable urban regime for Montreal: issues and challenges in metropolitan development
Pierre Hamel and Bernard Jouve

Functionalism and representationalism in contemporary urban agendas: a Scottish perspective on city-region branding
Greg Lloyd and Deborah Peel

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 September 2008**.

Please send your material to Julie Triggie
Email: Julie.Triggie@uwe.ac.uk

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